

John Brown

his wife

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deeds. I am in the way of

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CLIDAMAS,
OR
THE SICILIAN
TALE.

Written by J.S.



LONDON

Printed by Thomas Payne, and
are to be sold by John Cowper, at the
Holy Lamb, at the East end of Saint
Pauls Church. 1639.



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To the Readers,

Ere I present you
H with this little
Novel (curteous
Readers) which though
in it selfe it be nothing, yet
helpt by a favourable con-
struction, and applied to
the right use of such toies,
may prove something,
though of small moment,
whether it be worth the

To the Readers.

reading or no, I must leave
to your censures after the
perusall: yet thus much
let mee hearten you for-
ward to view it over, as
a travailer, having but a
little way to goe, though it
bee none of the best, com-
forts himself with the soon
coming to the end, so, if
when you begin to reade,
you find not those flowers
of art, and excellencies of
discourse, that you may
find in others of the same
nature,

To the Readers.

nature, yet consider it is
but short, and with those
thoughts you shal find an
end, before you thinke of
wearinesse. Take it there-
fore as the first Fruites of
his brains, that if this please,
will bee more industrious
to content you.

Yours,

as you like him,

I. S.



To the Reader.

REad o're this little book, & in it see, (shee
What paines the Author hath bestow'd for
And thy delight, for it's alone compil'd
For vertues luster, and not meanely fill'd
For if all Poets which this land doth yeeld,
Could bring Mars armed in a bloody field,
Or paint the violence of the waters king,
Or wish blinde Cupid in his Courts thus sing,
This land (as erst the Italian bounds) might be
Fam'd for the nursing of true Poetrie.

H. I.



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Vpon the AVTHOR
and his Worke.

WOrthy I call you for I find you so,
Reversing this your worke, many may
And soon conjecture of thy industrie, (know,
Both wit, and learning, and thy Poetrie.
But there are many, who are subiect still,
Ineffectively to talke even what they will.
And now of late, I've knowne a silly drudge,
Offer to censure, wanting wit to judge.
But goe you forward in what you intend,
Ther's many will detract, but few can mend.
This is the first, I'le wonder at the sequell,
If you proceed, there's few will be your equall.
'Tis so compleat compact in every thing,
That it must needs praise to the author bring.

Yours, and a true favourer
of learning and vertue.



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CLIDAMAS,
OR THE
SICILIAN
TALE.

Here dwelt in the Isle of *Sicily*, an old Gentleman, reverent for his yeares, wise in Counsell, vertuous in life, and rich in possessions, named *Clidamas*, yet was not fortune so much his friend in giving him wealth, as nature in enriching him with two Daughters, the elder whereof was named *Calanthia*, and the younger *Florella*.

Not farre from the dwelling of old *Clidamas*, there liv'd two young Gentlemen

men, not brothers by birth, yet as much or more then brothers by affection, the elder named *Cleanthes*, and the younger *Polidore*; equall they were in all things save in age, of equall height, of equall wit, of equall beauty, of equall strength; their valour such, that *Cleanthes* never found a match for himselfe before hee tried *Polidore*, neither could *Polidore* be ever parallel'd by any other then *Cleanthes*: oft had they tried their forces against strangers, and as oft had they come off to their adversaries disgrace, and their owne glory; oft had they tried their own strengths together, and as oft given over without any disadvantage on either side: so that perceiving neither to be the better, they gave over further proofes, and concluded, that since neither could brag of others overthrow, they would from thence forth partecipate of each others honours.

In this sort long they lived, haunting all places where honour was to be purchased, and where ever they came, doing such admirable deeds of armes, that their fame spread it selfe, not onely over *Sicily*, but also over the greatest part of *Greece* and

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and *Italy*, so that *Cleanthes* and *Polidore* were generally reputed the onely Chevaliers in those parts.

Long it was ere these famous Martialists (not yet weaned from the sweates of warlike honours) tasted the bitter-sweets of *Cupids* Artillery, till it fortun'd that *Callanthia* and *Florella* (who were as famous for beauty as they for valour) pass'd by their Castle, when both at one instant saw them, both at one instant liked them, both at one instant lov'd them, both at one instant protested they were Goddeffes, both at one instant vowed to injoy them; both at one instant were about to runne out of the Castle and seize on them, and yet both at one instant accounting it a dishonour to offer violence to weake women, and wisely pondering the danger that might arise thereof, desisted from such an enterprize; yet still continued they gazing, extolling above measure the excellency of their faces, and the sparkling luster of their radiant eyes, calling them (by overstrain'd hyperboles) *Starres*, *Sunnes*, *Angels*, or indeed any thing that love-sicke imagination fancieth, till by their continued

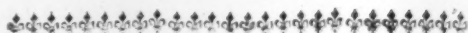
motion their eyes were denyed the sight of their faces; but then fell they to admiring of their back-parts, praying (beyond measure) the decency of their garments, setting downe for an absolute conclusion, that never could garments bee so extraordinarily well fashioned, unlesse an extraordinarie excellent mould were under them; thus by things seene, they gathered the perfection of things not seene, making their eyes beare them company till they were quite out of sight.

But then their eyes being robbed of their felicitie, imagination fell harder to worke; yet in all this time did neither take heede to the others passions, each were so busied in his owne particular contemplation, so being both wearie of eithers company (it being the nature of love to affect lonelinessse) they agreed without any motion made to either, to depart asunder, yet remembring their ancient friendship, they were once about to returne to take leave of one another, but the remembrance of their new love drowned this part of good manners, yet did each marvaile at the others strangenessse, and

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and still imputed the cause to himselfe, determining when occasion should serve to finde an excuse, which tooke away all cause of debate betweene them, neither dreaming that the other was taken as well as himselfe, but either steadfastly perswaded that himselfe was the onely aime of *Cupids* archery, in these imaginations either departed from the other to their private Chambers.

Twice had the Sunne runne his diurnall race, and still these lovers continued in their solitarinesse, not talking at meate as they were wont to do aforetime, but both would sit silent and still, thinking more of the beauty of their mistresses, then either of meate or table-talke, yet remembring themselves they would sometimes cast forth a stealing looke, to spie whether the one perceived the others manner of carriage, when if these their stolen glaunces hapned to be at one instant (as sometimes they were,) *Cleanthes* would blush, as a shamed to be seene by *Polidore*, and *Polidore* would change colour, as loth to have his passion noted by his deare *Cleanthes*.



At length solitarinesse (to which they had not formerly beene used) grew wearisome to them, and either desired to make his friend partaker of his secret thoughts; in this Sympathy of affection, one day, when the Sunne was descending to his westerne habitation, they grew more familiar, and after some unnecessary chat, they resolved to walke into the freshayre of the fragrent fields, to which they had now these two dayes beene strangers; a long time for them that had beene brought up abroad in the fields, and taught to rouse the savage lyon from his den, and to follow deeds of armes, and not to spend their time within doores, in a private chamber crossing their armes, and crying heyho to see the strangenesse of loves labyrinths.

Not farre from this castle, there was a spacious and thicke wood, so frequently beset with aged oakes, and straight upreared pines, as if Lady Nature had entended to make that place as a common arbour for the neighbouring region; & so indeede it was used, for thither resorted the chiefe persons of the land, women and
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lovers to heare the raviſht *Philomel* lament the cruelty of her falſe brother in law, others (that were not lovers) came thither to hunt the fearefull ſtagge or briſling bore; the ground of the wood was ſtrowed with the richeſt of natures tapiſtery, there grew the ſweetbrier, and the white roſe, the dazy, the yellow cowſlip, the honiſuckle, and the lovely violet, of which faire Ladies uſe to make themſelves ſweet garlands, thither it was that *Callanthia* and *Florella* were walking, when theſe two friends firſt hapned to ſee them, and thither they themſelves were now going, as if love had guided them to that place of purpoſe, to make it more famous by beeing private to the loves of ſo true a paire.

With one conſent they walked on till they came to a thicket of pine trees, whoſe overgrowne tops were ſo thickly ſpread, and ſo interchangably intangled each in other, that they made a moſt ſolitary ſhade, utterly denying the tell-tale *Phæbus* any proſpect to the place, that elſe would be too familiar in love's ſecrets; this place they thought the fitteſt for their purpoſe, and therefore ſitting both downe upon the

grasse, they remained a good while silent, as desiring one should know the others secrets, and yet either loth to disclose his secrets, because they were love; Thus long they sate, till at the last *Cleanthes* trusting to the gentlenesse of *Polydore*, thus began.

If what I speake, sound harsh in thine eares, or if when I have told thee my greifes, thou intendest to reprove my folly, as I know thou wilt, I pray thee *Polidore* doe it gently, and remember (I beseech thee) that howsoever faulty, yet I am thy friend, trust me (my *Polidore*) had not fate, unevitable fate, laid this mischance upon mee, I thinke I had beene still as free as thou.

Soone was *Polydore* wrought to be kind to *Cleanthes*, because he made no question but that hee should have neede of the same from him, and (therefore with a forced smile) he told him, he should finde a kinde tutor of him, and so bad him proceede; which hee, (after a volly of sighes) thus did.

I know not *Polidore*, whether ever thou hast heard tell of a Diety (unknowne I must confesse

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confesse to souldiers, and therefore I thinke
not knowne to thee) called Love, for mine
owne part, I have often heard tell of him,
but never gave credit to the report, but al-
waies imagined it to be the idle imaginati-
on of a franticke braine, till of late I
thinke, himselfe, knowing himselfe dispi-
sed, is come to revenge himselfe on mee for
so neglecting him, for my *Polysdore* (and
then he blusht) not long since it was my
chance leaning out of the castle window,
to behold two gentlewomen exceeding
beautifull both, especially one, whose eyes
(me thought) shot fiery arrowes at my heart
and wounded it, so that from that time thy
poore *Cleanthes*, hath beene in such an a-
gony of distresse, that I hope thy heart
(deare *Polidore*) will never feele the like,
whether she were a humaine creature, or a
celestiall goddesse come of purpose to de-
lude mee I know not, for since I never saw
her; imagine my deare *Polidore*, but alas
to what purpose? for thou canst never im-
agine what continuall fires, what perpet-
uall frosts, what everlasting tortures, har-
bour in a lovers brest, thou canst not *Poly-
dore*, no, thou canst not amongst all the le-
gends

gends of afflicting torments find out one to parallell a lovers anguish, thou wilt tell me of *Ixions* wheele, alas, that is a rest to the perpetuall circumvolutions in a lovers heart, thou wilt tell mee of *Prometheus* vulture, alas, what vulture can gnaw so fiercely as the griffin care doth on my poore heart (for I am now a lover) thou wilt tell me of the fifty daughters of false *Danans* and their bottomlesse tubs, alas what are they to the bottomlesse pit of my affections, which a whole sea of fancies cannot fill; I expect now that thou shouldest chide me, but thy word is past, and thou hast rather cause to pittie me; howsoever if thou beest angry with mee (as thou hast cause enough) I prithe keepe thy word, and chide me gently, else thou wilt adde more to a soule that is already prest with two heaue a burthen.

Glad was *Polydore* when hee heard him name love, yet that joy was not lasting, for hee imagined, his friend had perceived some thing by him, and therefore might use this as a way to sound him, but perceiving by the continuance of his speech, that what hee spake, hee spake hartily; a
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new feare possessed him, who this gentle-
woman should bee, extreamely fearing it
should bee his miltresse, thinking (as every
lover doth) that she was the onely woman
in the world, worthy to be loved; yet some
what glad that his friend *Cleanthes* was
caught as well as himselfe, hee made this
reply.

Is it possible that *Cleanthes* should be in-
tangled in loves net? can it bee that hee
should bee hit with *Cupids* bird bolt?
nay, then I see it is no shame for such
fooles as I to love, when so wise a man
as *Cleanthes* is overtaken, thinke not I
speake this in derision friend, for heaven
knowes, and my conscience knowes, that
Polydore feelles as much torture for love, as
Cleanthes possibly can; onely in this I am
happie, that having so good a president, I
neede not be ashamed to love, nor afraid of
rebuke from you, that are caught in the
same ginne; Trust me *Cleanthes*, *Cupid* was
politicke in this, for had he smote one only,
surely your strong perswasions and infor-
cing arguments, would have so much pre-
vailed, that I should have shaken off all
thoughts of love, and rather have smothered

red my affection, though it might have cost me the hazard of my life, then have entertained any thing that might have beene distastefull to *Cleanthes*, and by mine owne thoughts I measure thine, but now since we are both so stricken, that the one cannot rebuke the other, unlesse he will of necessity blame himselfe, let us instead of chiding, cherish one another, and with our best endeavours aide each other, in the attaining of our desires; it could not chuse but exceedingly glad *Cleanthes* to heare with what a congruity, love had endued both their affections; but then the same feare came upon him that had before invaded *Polydore*, least perchance, his friend should bee in love with his mistresse, but that feare soone after vanished too, for by sundry inquiries, and divers markes, which either had imprinted in their memory, they truly perceived that *Callanthia* was *Cleanthes* his mistresse, and *Florella* *Polydore*s; so that not knowing now, why either should bee offended at other, or have any cause to grieve, if so bee their mistresses wou'd prove gratiōs, they resolved that, to put that in trial, was their next taske, in which they were

mutu-

mutually to aide one another, and in this resolution, they left the wood, and went home to their cattle.

Long it was not, ere they learned who, and what their sweethearts were, wherupon they grew into acquaintance with old *Clydamas*, which was not hard for them to doe, they being men of so great note, and he a man of so affable a nature, that he willingly intertained the acquaintance of any, that were vertuously given, howsoever strangers, so that he thought himselfe to be highly graced, to bee familiar with two such men as *Cleantes* and *Polydore*: and they thought themselves no lesse happie, in being entertained into the friendship of *Clydamas*.

Thus past they some time onely in mutual hospitality, without any speech of love on either side, till on a time *Clydamas* inviting them home to his house to a banquet, after the feast was ended he had them into a goodly garden inbroidered with the chiefest of *Floras* jewels, in the midst whereof, was a most curious arbour of sweet-brier, into which leading the two friends, and seating them on either side himselfe, he thus spake unto them. Gentle-

Gentlemen, before I was acquainted with you, and knew you only by report, I loved you, esteeming you to be men worthy to be beloved, but since growing into more familiarity with you, that love is so much more increased, by how much the more my knowledge of you is bettered: I love not to flatter, neither would I have you to grow proud at my speeches, (and therewith hee smiled,) but this I will boldly say, that if the gods would promise to give me two sonnes, endued with such qualities as I would wish the, you should be y^e patternes, that I would set the gods to work by; did I want valiant men to defend my just cause, I would send the whole world over to finde out you; did I want boone companiōs to passe away the time with, I would picke out you; did I want a friend to intruit my secrets with, it should be one of you: you may wonder perhaps, to what end tends this preamble, why truit me worthy friends, to such an end that if it hit with your humours, (as I would wish it) it may be to the good of us all.

I cannot tell whether you have heard reported, how in former times, the gods had blessed mee with a paire of sonnes, whom

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whom I cannot praise, because it was my hard fortune to loose them, before either themselves could tell what honour meant, or I, or indeede any man tell, to what end the fates had reserved them, yet was their expectation great with all men: for being but nine yeares old, they gave forth such evident signes of a hopefull valour, that it amazed strangers, & joyed me exceedingly, to heare how they were generally praised, even in their childish exercises; but now begins the tragedy (& with that the teares trickled downe his faire white beard) for as they were playing together on the Sea-shore, certaine Sea-rovers espying them, tooke them and forcibly carried them aboard their gally, presently hoisting up their sailes and getting away, maugre all our endeavours, who presently made after them with what speede wee might, but to no purpose, for they labouring with saile and oare, so farre outtripped us that it was impossible for us to overtake them; and therefore seeing that we laboured in vaine, with sorrowfull hearts wee turned backe againe, leaving my deare children behind, of whom since then I never heard any tydings;

tidings; This sorrow comming to the mothers eare, who was then great with child and neere her time, it so wrought on her, that she presently fell in travile, and in travile died, yet did she leave (to comfort my old age) these two daughters whom you know, and indeede they have bene hitherto a comfort to mee, I will not say too much of them, because they are mine owne: yet thus much I may say, that they are vertuous, and since the gods have bereft me of my sonnes, I suppose they have in some sort made me a recompence, in bestowing on me such daughters, as may by their fortunate marriages enrich mee with two noble sonnes in law, and those I have determined to be you, if you can like of them, or if your affections be not settled elsewhere; thinke them not the worse because they are profered, but thinke rather, that it is a sure presage of a following good, to have a full assent on all parts, for how ever I give you my consent, yet doe I limit it to your and their liking; for I will not bee the maker of infort matches; therefore if you have heeretofore, or doe now newly, entertaine any liking to my daughters,

daughters, here you have my consent, as esteeming you worthy sonnes in law, whom I have found to bee such worthy friends; on therefore freely, and if you like them, woe them, for mine owne part, now I have given you thus much way; I will be neither a hindrance, nor a furtherer to your attempts, but either betake himselfe to his best cunning.

You may imagine, it was some comfort to the poore lovers to have such a way laid open to them, for well they knew that it was requisite to get the fathers good will, if they would have the match pleasing and fortunate, therefore without any further circumstances, *Cleanthes* in the name of himselfe, and his friend *Polidore* thus spake.

For the love worthy fir which you have had to us, wee are rather to thanke your goodnesse, then any deserts in our selves, your age being more apt to fancy where you finde the least occasion of liking, then our youth able to merit any thing to make you fancy us, howsoever we are the more bound to you, for enriching us with your love, that have no title

to lay claime to it by. Of the unhappy losse of your hopefull sonnes, some glimmering of knowledge we have had heretofore, but never the truth till now from your selfe, in which you have related such a continued race of sorrow, knit up with so admirable a period of joy, that if your report urged teares from us, your conclusion was of sufficiency to dry them; the losse of your sonnes was much, the losse of your wife much, and indeede I know not which we should esteeme the greater losse, but for these two losses, the Gods have returned you a large recōpence, foure for thrée, two daughters (whom I know not whether the earth can paralel) for one wife, which (besides their owne inherent excellencyes) bring with them two husbands, which though they cannot equal your own children, yet may they in some sort bring a comfort to your aged yeares. Now since it hath pleased you, to nominate us two for your sonnes in law, we should be much ingrate in refusing so goodly a profer, and much more then vaine, to denie that, because it is offered, for which wee would give whole worlds (were they ours) for the

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the purchase, for beleeve me sir, no sooner did our eyes behold your beautilous daughters, but our hearts loved thē, determining for certaine either to have them, or to die for them; how happie then may you imagine we esteeme our selves, when you that are the wakefull dragon to guard these golden apples, shut your eyes while wee two *Herculeesses* come to rob your orchard, or rather not shut your eyes, but looke on us with delight; encouraging us on with such perswasions, as would make a coward valient in the warres of Love, having no enemie to warre against him, save a gracious Virgin, and knowing besides that she cannot be hard hearted, comming of so kinde a father. To answer you therefore with what a sympathie our affection meet, you cannot be so willing to have us your sonnies, as we (if your faire daughters be but gracious as I hope they will) are desirous to call you father.

What *Cleantes* had uttered in words, *Polydore* failed not to testifie for himselfe, by the pleasing gesture of his countenance, which the good old man perceiving, it did so wrap him in joy, that the teares ranne

trickling downe his white beard, his overgladdened heart not being able to containe in it selfe so suddaine an extasy of joy, as so great a felicity (as he esteemed it) to have *Cleantes* and *Polydore* for his sonnes in law, which they taking for a sure presage of a fortunate event, it made them sympathize with him in delight, though their eyes did not testifie it with such teares of joy as his did, their youthfull fire being better able to dry up those flouds of overflowing passion then the frost of age; wherefore without more a doe, they desired him only to aide them thus far, as to help them to the speech of the maides, and they did not doubt of a happie successe, which hee willingly agreeing unto, promised to performe accordingly. But because it was then to late, the sunne being almost gone to hide himselfe in the boosome of *Tethys*, he invited them to a course supper and a hard bed (as he termed it) and there for that night the lovers tooke up their Inne.

All supper time did they sit gazing on their mistresses, feeding on their eyes more then on the Cates that was before them, that

that it was a meriment to old *Clidamas* to see them so attentive, and to heare them answer so impertinently to every question he askt of them, yet would he finde out pleasant discourse to beguile the time, and thus supper was passed over; after with musicke and dancing, and other delightful pleasures, they wore away the howers till bed time, & then lights being brought they were conducted to their chambers. Faine would the youths have beene practising their skill in Venus warfare, but the company of guests then present denied them opportunity, therefore awaiting for a fitter houre, they betooke them to their lodging; for rest I cannot call it, their minds being so distracted betweene joy and feare; joy for the fathers willingnesse, feare for the daughters dislike if it should happen; that they debarred their eyes from the least slumber, yet was the fancy of joy the stronger, as having the surer ground, which so filled their heads with pleasing imaginations, that themselves I thinke (had they beene askt the question) could not have recounted them.

The burning hooves of *Apollones* fire-breathing

breathing steeds, had not as yet attained the lower pavement of the vaulted hemisphere, and rosy fingerd *Aurora* had but newly strewd the way for the King of lights, when the two lovers (wearie of their restlesse beds) perceiving the mornings blush through the chamber window, arose, and apparrelling themselves went downe to receive the fresh mornings aire in the garden; but all their earlineffe could not outstrippe the wakefull *Clydamas*, who was the continuall morning cock to the whole house, who seeing the two lovers comming towards him, with a merry countenance gave them the bonjour thus.

So early up, nay then I see, you will bee sure speeders that are so early risers; See, how the sunne comes stealing over yon hill, dying his cheekes with blushes as ashamed to be outstript by mortalls; Rather he teacheth us (saide *Polydore*) to blush for suffering our selves to be surpast by you, that should rather bee at rest, then thus abroad so soone before the day, young bloods may better indure watching then weake age: Indeede (saide *Clydamas* yong men that have the same watchbel that you have

have, can worſe indure their beds then others that want it, and commonly where ther's a lover in the houſe there needs no other cock to call up the reſt, but otherwiſe youth loves their eaſe, and to nourish themſelves with a morning nap, when old men rather deſire to feede (as it were) on the freſh aire without doores; yet the caſe goes ill of our ſides (ſaith *Cleanthes*) for though we have the watchbell which you talke of, yet either it went falſe, or wee minded it not, for me thinkes for all our larum, you are got up before us.

With ſuch like pleaſing conference they paſſed on the time till *Clydamas* perceived his daughters were come into the garden, whereupon taking the two friends by the hands he thus encouraged them: Yonder is the game, and you are ſkiltull huntſmen, upon them then, and if you miſſe them, blame not me for negligence, but your ſelves for ſlothfulneſſe, that had the game in view, and yet loſt it: and therewith he parted from them.

Who then had looked on the lovers, might have perceived a maidenly bluſh overſpread their cheekes, as afraid of themſelves

selves having never beene trained in *Cupids*
 military discipline, yet gathering their spi-
 rits together, and arming themselves with
 their greatest resolution, they approched
 nigh and taking them by the hands kindly
 gave them the good morrow, which they
 with a modest blush returned. Whereupon
Cleanthes taking his faire *Calanthia* by
 the hand, whilst *Polydore* did the like to
 his deare *Florella* thus accosted her.

If what I speake (beautious *Calanthia*)
 be not so powdered with art, as may be-
 fit the tender tympane of a Ladyes eare,
 impute it to the fault of war, that teacheth
 her schollers no better language: yet thus
 much may my simplenesse in that kinde
 ga'ne me, that wanting colour to daube
 my meaning over with, my truth will ap-
 peare the more naked and cleare. I love
 thee deare *Callanthia*; nay start not sweet,
 love is not such a bugbeare to affright a
 Lady with, time was when I my selfe
 would have laught at the name of *Cupid*,
 as if he had beene as lame as hee is blind:
 but since, his piercing shaft hath made so
 large a wound, that I feare it never will be
 healed, unlesse you proove the gracious
 physitian

phisitian and cure me; It was the wisdom
of the gods (divine *Calanthia*) to make
man and woman, so framing them, that it
is almost impossible for them to live asun-
der ; for if either had beene made alone,
how should the spacious fabrick of the
world have beene supplied with inhabi-
tants ? or if when both had beene made,
they might have lived asunder , to what
end had served mans affibility ? or those
excellencies that are in women ? they or-
dained therefore that man and woman
should be joyned together, that mans na-
turall harshnesse might bee molified with
womans tendernesse, and womans weake-
nesse might bee upheld by mans strength.
Now since this is the pleasure of the gods,
(my deare) be not you displeasing to them,
by obstinate refusing to submit your selfe
to their decree : but agree to bee my wo-
man, and I (more then willingly) will
consent to bee thy man, give mee thy
love as freely, as I aske it honestly , for
farre from me, be the thought of villany ;
I know it is the fashion of maidens to bee
coy, and hard to bee wonne at first, and
some fooles I know there are, that esteeme
a

a woman light if she bee wonne at the first
 onset, but trust me *Calanthia*, I am of ano-
 ther opinion, for never could a thousand
 yeares of growth, nourish a truer love in
 any lovers brest, then a minuts sight hath
 bred in mine: for no sooner did your
 eyes sparkle on mine, but from those eyes
 of yours, *Cupid* let fly his golden headed
 arrow at my heart, and why then may not
 a minuts talke, breede as true a love as a
 minuts sight: delay not then my deare
Calanthia, but yeeld thy selfe without any
 further circumstance, for by thy love,
 (which is an oath that I would sooner die
 then breake) I shall account thee more
 wise and constant, as wanting those arts
 which cunning women have, by fained re-
 fusalls to draw poore besotted youths in-
 to a fooles paradise, my request is faire and
 honest, thy gracious love, to bee consum-
 mated by a happy marriage. And there-
 with hee ceased, griping her faire hand
 within his so hard, as if he would have her
 feele his meaning as well as heare it.

But the excellent *Calanthia* (who was as
 faire as any that the sunne ere lookt on,
 and yet more gracious then faire, and as
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wise as gracious) after a little musing made him an answer thus.

Worthy Sir, if warre teach her Schollers no worse language then shee hath taught you, shee neede not bee ashamed of them; for beleeve me sir, (and let these blushes testifie for me) I know not how, but your words have so wrought with mee, that I never felt the like passions in my selfe, as I do at this time, if you deceive me be it on your owne head, I am the silly fish easily caught with a faire bait, I must confesse I could have held off longer, and would have done, (though I imagine what torments I should have undergone) but your protestations have so farre prevailed with mee, that you see how easily I am wonne to yeeld you up the fort of my chaste love, almost without the least battery; which if it be a fault; (as I know not how you may esteeme it,) blame your owne tongue for having so much power to overcome me.

Blest be my tongue said *Cleanthes*, for having so much power, and blest bee love for making thy heart so pliable; but more then blest bee thy deare selfe, (excellent

Callan-

Calanthia) for enriching me with so excellent and estimable a treasure as thy love; when I am false or once thinke a thought of deceiving thee, may all the plagues of love and jealousie light on this heart, and never bee removed. O happy presage of a most fortunate end, in so blest a beginning; what man can have more cause of joy then *Cleanthes*, when he shall fold in his armes so delicate a bride as is *Callanthia*; for ever will I consecrate this day to pleasure, & the sprightly *Cupid*, dull bloody warre, when did I ever feele such an extasy of joy in all thy service, when I came home laden with the spoyles of foes, crowned with tryumphant bayes, and all the souldiers crying out *Cleanthes*, the mortall *Mars* that leades victory bound in an iron chaine, that shee dares not but attend on him, victory, victory to the great *Cleanthes*; yet have I rid one drowfie and dull, no more stird with these glorious acclamations, then if they had not belonged to me; yet here for the glory of one cumbate in the field of Love, my heart dances to the musicke of *Callanthias* voice, chaunt on my deere *Callanthia* and never give

give over, that my poore heart may never
give over dauncing.

Callantbia seeing into what an extremi-
ty of joy imagination had led him,
thought to give him a kind of cooling
card, and therefore spake to this effect.

Let not my words *Celanthes* make you
to loose your selfe, for my position was
generall, in regard of mine owne will, yet
is it not without a lemitation; you know
that besides the liberty of my free will,
I have the obedience of a child imposed on
me, and beleeeve me, that howsoever I fare
(as indeede I thinke I shall not live with-
out you) his will shall be the limits of my
affection, beyond which I will on no
termes wander; get therefore his good-
will and you have mine.

This was so farre from abating any
thing of *Celanthes* his joy, that it augmen-
ted it rather, which he was about to utter,
and tell her that he had her fathers good
will already, but that *Clidamas* (who all
this while hard all their talke) perceiving
already that *Polydore* had wrought his
Lady *Florella* to the same point, stepped
out, and put them together with these or
the like benidictions.

If



If my good will be the onely stop, here I remove that let gentleman, here I give you my daughters, and may the Gods blesse this faire conjunction, may you live long and happie together, may the children which the Gods will bestow on you, grow up to a greater perfection of vertue then their parents, and when the fates shall cut your threads of life, may yee have the fortune of *Philemon* and *Baucis*, to end all your lives in one period of time. To which the lovely couples said Amen.

The next care was in providing necessarie things for the wedding, and appointing the day, which for the convenient decency of the celebration, was deferred till a moneth after: till when let us leave them, and in the meane goe a while to sea, to heare (if we can) some tidings of *Marturio* and *Roderigo*, the lost sonnes of old *Clidamas* who as you heard himsele report it, were stolen away in their childhood by sea rovers; but before wee enter into the discourse of their fortunes, it is requisite that we looke into the passage of an age, or two before.

Upon the sea coast of *Barbary*, there stands

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stands an auncient and renowned citie, generally knowne to Merchants, called *Tunis*, in which sometime their raigned a King (or a tyrant rather) named *Mariabdelas*: This monster (for so wee may call him more justly then a man) not content to wallow, and glut himselfe in such sins as might have some excuse, or agreed something with the course of nature, went on yet further, letting loose the reines to his voluptuous appetite, jettling at the majesty of the Gods, and thinking them to be idle fictions of witles heads, to make fooles afraid of doing that, which might content their sensuality.

So far proceeded his enormous wickednes, as to the deflowring of his own daughter, a maiden so exceedingly beautifull, and so excellently vertuous, that shee seemed as a faire rose sprung from a crooked brier; yet neither her excellent beauty, (which would have molified a tiger) nor her admirable vertues (which would have moved any but a devill) could purchase any remorse in this hellish tyrant; thrice did she conjure him by the name of father, to desist from so unhumaine a villany, and

yet

yet thrice did the feind reject the name of
 father and would not heare; thrice did she
 provoke him by the paines of her carefull
 mother, that he would not let those many
 labours imployed to bring her up vertu-
 ously, to perish and come to nothing by
 his beastlinesse, and yet thrice did the bar-
 barous wretch withstand those excellent
 provocations; because they would per-
 swade him from his beastlinesse: thrice
 did shee stirre him by the sence of man-
 hood, telling him how unmanly it was
 to offer violence to a tender virgin, much
 more for a father to offer villany to his
 owne child, and yet thrice did he refuse
 these motions, setting more by the fruition
 of his incestuous lust, then by the credit of
 manhood, so that (perforce) taking her
 in his armes he carried her into his cham-
 ber, whilst shee poore soule with bitter
 cries and many a brine-salt teare, implo-
 red aide from the Gods; but all in vaine,
 for the insatiate devill having her there in
 his power, villanously ravish't her; but
 then his lustfull liking turned to a mortall
 hate, loathing the person but not the fact,
 so that throwing off all pitty of a man, as
 before

before hee had done of a father, hee drew his sword, and while the sweete angellike creature sate bewailing her lost honour, the cruell devill most unhumanely murdered her, and commanding presently to raise a rumour of her suddaine death, in most pompious manner he solemnized her funerall, where the dissembling crocodile shed such a multitude of false teares, that he made the most hearts present to condole with him; his infinite losse in so precious a daughter.

Yet could not all his cunning clooke his wickednesse from the all-seeing eyes of the divine powers, for though hee escaped corporall plagues, yet was his minde so distracted with hideous thoughts, and the everlasting gripes of a guilty conscience, as if a thousand devills had taken up their habitation in his bosome, nor could the comfort of sleepe any thing benefit him, for no sooner were his eyes closed, but his imagination presented him with gasty visions and horred dreames; amongst the rest, one night hee dreamt that hee saw his daughter comming towards him with her haire dishevel'd about her eares, and her

D

eyes -

eyes flaming like fire, in her hand a burning whip, with which she laskt him in most cruell manner, with horrour whereof crying out amaine, spare me *Carapresa*, he waked; and yet still was his imagination so thoroughly posselt with terror of those burning lashes, that hee ranne about the chamber like a mad man, crying continually on *Carapresa* to hold her hands, which the guard (that ordinarily watcht about the chamber) hearing, they presently rushed in upon him, and by violence held him, till being something come to himselfe, they left him, and hee went to bed againe.

In such like tortures did hee spend his time, so that growing weary of his life, and indeed desperate, not caring what should happen to him, he gave himself over to delights, and such pastime as were of most likelihood to drive away such troublesome thoughts; at last (by what meanes I know not) it came into his head to have a great desire to know to what end the fates had reserved him, this fancy growing stronger and stronger, hee sent two of his trustiest servants to the oracle of *Jupiter*

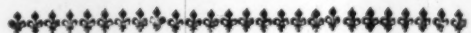
Ammon

Ammon to know his destiny, who coming before the Alter, and offering their gifts according to the custome, they received from the oracle this answer.

*The man that Tunis doth command,
Shall fall by a Sicilian hand.*

With this short answer they returned home againe, where delivering the King their scroule, he read it, & plainly perceiving how evidently his destiny was figured out, he presently gave command, that all *Sicilians* should within a moneths space, voide the country on paine of death, if any were found after the moneths end; he himselfe in the meane time walking strongly guarded, admitting none into his company or service, untill hee had thoroughly examined him; what, and of whence he was, not caring of what country they were, so they were not *Sicilians*.

- Besides this he sent out his gallies and other ships of warre to surprise al *Sicilians*, without respect of age, sexe, or degree, so that by these meanes the *Mediterranian* sea



was so haunted, as no one durst venture, unlesse he went extraordinarily strongly provided for the assault, for under colour of surprising *Sicilians*, these rovers set on all that they saw, ransacking ship and goods, slaying some of the men, and sending the others to the shore naked and comfortlesse.

One of these gallies it was, that stole away the two children as they were playing by the sea shore, for espying them, and supposing that the King would give them an extraordinary reward, for adventuring to fetch them out of their country, when so largely he recompenced those that tooke any on the sea, they put it to the venture, and swiftly rushing out of their gally, they carried them away, maugre all that the inhabitants could doe.

Thus with their rich booty (as they accounted it) they sayled on, being carried with a merry gale of wind, till they came within the sight of *Tunis*, but then, on a suddaine the wind changed quite contrary, so that it was impossible for them to approach to the shore, and presently upon it, arose so vehement a tempest, as if heaven
and

and earth would have met together, to the confusion of the weatherbeaten gally, the winds storm'd, the seas roar'd, the shippe crackt, and the men howl'd for anguish, making a most confused & hideous noyse, the day grew darke, and the Sunne wrapt up his face in his clowded mantle, as loth to see the confusion of mankind, the moone and the starres, lookt gazing out of their spheres, wondering to see the cruelty of enraged *Æolus*, to the generall amazement of all the distracted beholders, to see the Moone usurpe the Sunnes office, and the signes of midnight, when it should bee noone.

To adde to the horred noyse of the raging waters, sometimes were heard the suddaine crackes of furious thunderbolts, which compared with the harsh grumbling of the turbulent sea, seemed like the discharging of some great peice of ordinance amongst a volly of small shot. The shippe in the meane time violently tumbled up and downe, by the continuall agitation of the troubled ocean, now mounted upward, as if it would never leave ascending, till it had toucht the clouds, and by

and by downe againe, as if it would never leave falling till it came to the lowest hell, the amaz'd saylors, not knowing which way to turne them in so urgent an extremity, were inforced to commit ship, lives, goods, and all, to the mercy of the winds and sea, therefore taking downe all their sayles they lay hulling up and downe, as the tempest drove, carefully expecting a more prosperous gale; but in vaine expected they any comfort, for on the second night after the tempest began, they were set aground on the coast of *Spaine*.

Who had then seene the distracted mariners, would have thought them mortal foes, rather then combined friends, so did every one bestirre himselfe in this danger, snatching out of his fellowes hand that which hee thought would save himselfe, not caring who perished so himselfe escaped: amongst the rest the young lads shifted for themselves, as well as their tender age would give them leave, for seeing how every one provided for himselfe, no man regarding them, they thought that they should doe the like too, and therefore getting up into the upper decke,
(be-

(because that place was onely free from water,) they remained there till that also began to be possessed by the incroaching ocean, but then, as it were inspired with a riper wit, which it may be the sight of the present danger had lent them. they supposed that to stay longer in the ship, nothing was to be expected but most certaine ruine, & therefore espying a chest which by good fortune was in the place (as they had seene others doe) they threw themselves and it into the sea, intreating *Neptune* to bee gentle to them, because they were but children and had never done him wrong.

It seemed that *Neptune* heard their prayers, for ere breake of day they were cast on shore half dead hard by *Tarragona*, where an old fisherman (who about some businesse was come so early to the sea side) found them, and being moved with tender commiseration of their misfortunes, hee ranne to them, and used such diligence that he recovered life in them, yet long it was ere they could call to mind how they came there, but at last remembring the ship and the storme at sea, they asked the old man what was become of the ship; but hee

perceiving them to be faint, carried them home with him, and told them that the ship would come againe one day, and till then they should dwell with him, which they according to their chikdih simplicity presently consented to.

Thus were these two children saved from the swords tyranny by the cruell mercy of the angry sea, the other that were in the ship were either drowned, or if they escaped to the land they fell into the hands of the inhabitants, who hated them deadly, as being subjects to the tyrant *Mariabdelz*.

The good old *Sancho* (for so was the fisherman called) perciving by divers questions, who and what his orphans were, regarded them the more charily, intending when occasion should serve to carry them home againe to *Sicily*, which hee hoped might be a meanes of bettering his estate, by a good recompence which hee made account to obtaine, by presenting their father with so worthy a gift.

It fortun'd, that about some two or three yeares after, the Duke of *Medina Sidonia* Lord Admirall of *Spaine*, having beene

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beene upon a service to scoure the Sea of
pyrats, for want of water and fresh victu-
alls, happened to put into that haven, where
comming himselte ashore, he chaunced to
espie *Martuvio* and *Roderigo* as they were
comming from schoole, when presentiy he
rooke such a liking to them that he deman-
ded of them whose children they were, they
(as they were taught by old *Sancho*) made
answer they were his, whereupon the Duke
commanding him to be sent for, requested
him to let him have his two children,
which the good old man hearing, and glad
to preferre them to so honorable a man,
(because he knew not when his owne estate
would be sufficient to carry them to *Sicity*)
willingly condesended unto, and therefore
taking them aside thus spake unto
them.

My sonnes (said he) for so I may justly
call you, as having given you a second life
from the seas cruelty, and my care of you
since that time, hath beene little lesse then
that of a father, you are old enough to en-
tertaine my counsell, and of understanding
sufficient to put it in practise, you see how
the meanes that the Gods have lent me is so
final, I

small, that it is onely sufficient to keepe
 us, so that I know not whether ever I shall
 be able, to convey you home to your owne
 father or no; see therefore my deare childre
 how the Gods have provided for you, in
 moving the heart of the great Duke of *Me-*
dina Sitionia to fancy you, a man mighty in
 power, & great in autho. ity, under whom
 you may sooner get meanes of transportation
 to your counntry, then by staying here
 with me, goe with him my boyes, and I be-
 seech the Gods to give you as many bles-
 sings, as there are sorrowes in my poore
 heart to part with you, were it not that I
 know it is for your greater good: yet wher-
 soever you shall go, or howsoever the fates
 shall dispose of you, remember old *Sancho*
 your poore foster father; lastly, it will not be
 amisse for you to entertaine my counsell in
 this to, whensoever folkes shall aske you
 what or whose sons you are, you may an-
 swer, a poore fishermans son the coast of
Spaine, for if you be knowne to be *Sicilians*
 it will go hard, but the tyrant *Mariabdel*
 of whom you have heard tell, will worke
 some meanes to get you into his clutches for
 the whole sea is full of his warlike ships,
 and

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and hee accounts not the losse of his ships,
equall to the purchase of one *Sicilian*, so
monstrously doth he hate your nation; but
by terming your selves my children, you
may go for *Spaniards*, & so escape the feare
of any such danger, besides going under my
name, you may much benefit mee, for who-
soever shall take a liking to you, cannot
chuse but favour the father of such chil-
dren, goe one therefore on Gods name, and
whatsoever become of you, remember to
shew your selves to bee nobly borne, rather
by your vertuous and noble acts, then by
your owne report.

When hee made an end of his counsell
he kissed their tender cheekes, the teares
standing in his eyes, as loth to part with
his pritty children, and they also crying
ripe, not willing to leave their loving fa-
ther; in this sort he delivered them to the
Duke, who gave him a great reward for
them, which nothing displeased the old
man: Sometime they lived with the Duke
at sea, till the sea being sufficiently scoured
as he thought, he returned home to *Biscay*,
where the two children grew up so be-
yond expectation in beauty, stature, and
strength



strength, that it much delighted the good Duke to see them, their greatest delight was to bestride great horses, and when their age began to be able to endure it, they gave themselves wholly to deeds of armes, haunting iusts & tournaments, which were some thing frequent, where continually they carried themselves so well, that they still came off with honour, to the exceeding comfort of the Duke, and admiration of all that beheld them, to see such admirable worth in so young yeares.

Thus sometime they lived in this fashion of life, till it was rumord in *Biscay*, that a certaine Pyrat name *Mariboll*, went roving up and downe the Levant, seizing on all the ships that came in his way, but especially on the *Spanissh* ships, that came from *Candy*, laden with wines: These tidings were beyond measure welcome to bold *Marthurio* and *Roderigo*, as hoping now to put in practise, what they had al this while been learning, so that no sooner had the Duke given commandement for the providing of the gallies to be set out against the pyrats, but they came to him, and with humble earnestnes besought him to let them waite

the good waite on him in this expedition, which he
might waite on him in this expedition, which he
en their seeing their forwardnesse consented to.

They gave The winds blew faire, and all things
es, haun- were prepared for the purpose, whereupon
ere some they presently went aboard, leaving the
lly they shore full of people praying for their good
they still successe; with pleasant gaile they sailed
ceeding on, till they came over against *Zante*
ation of where one from the top discerned sayles,
mirable and thereupon gave warning to the men
below, to make ready for the fight, for hee
had now evidently discried that they were
fashion *Martolls* gallies, whereupon every man
, that a fell closely to his businesse, some to fitting
roving the sayles, others to raise up defence, a-
g on all- gainst their enemies, others to reare their
especi- engines of battery, wherewith they would
ne from send whole showres of stones & arrowes a-
tidings- mongst the foes, others making ready their
to bold grapling to lay hold of the adverse ships,
now to if peradventure they came to boarding,
s while who had then seene, the two young *Sicili-*
ad the- *ans*, would have thought they had beene
provi- going to a feast, rather then to a dismall
inst the and unusual fight; their greatest care was
d with to see, whether their swordes were sharpe
et them enough, as for their armour they did not
waite so

so much regarded it, yet knowing by their little experience, that it was not the least duty of a valient man, to looke well to his owne defence, they provided for that too, making every thing as sure as they might, that the enemy might not have too much advantage against them; thus being armed in compleate harnessse they came before the Admirall, who seeing and praising their courage assigned them their places.

No lesse were the Pyrats busied, for *Marroll* being a man of great experience, and having beene in many sea fights, knew that now he was to use an other manner of proceeding, and a greater care then in the ordinary surprisall of a weake Marchant, and therefore with as great care and expedition as was possible, providing all things either for offence or defence, he encouraged his men with these or the like speeches.

I should doe you too much wrong worthy friends and fellowes in armes, if I should now doubt of your worth, that I have had so many most absolute and apparent proofes off, onely thus much I am

to tell you, that that worth of yours is now
 to be so much the more augmented, by how
 much the quality of your now approaching
 foes, is farre surpassing that of those, with
 whom you have hitherto dealt, for they
 were only marchants, men of small or no
 force, easily wonne to yeeld themselves to
 your victorious swords: but now you are
 to encounter with souldiers, men inn'd to
 seafight, and brought up all their life time
 to trauersse the fields of *Neptune*, remem-
 ber that you are to fight against *Alonzo* the
 great Admirall of *Spaine*, who not many
 yeares since so bestird himselfe, that not a
 rover durst peepe out of the harbour; re-
 member that they are your borne enemies,
 men sworne to your destruction, and ac-
 count your selves as men sent by the Gods
 to whip them for their overdaring, remem-
 ber that how famous soever the enemy is,
 so much the more glory is it to overcome:
 remember the great fight you had with
Andrea Admirall of *Sicily*, and how ma-
 ny *Sicilian* flayes you carried to *Tunis* to
 the great *Mariabdel*; are not you the
 men? who when the great Navy of *Mal-
 ta* scoured the *Leuant*, durst range at plea-
 sure

red victory, and therefore with an unanimous consent they cryed out *Victoria Victoria*, which the Duke of *Medina* hearing, hee tooke occasion thereupon to encourage his souldiers, in these or the like speeches.

Harke how yon dogges barke at the Moone, like cockes crowing on their owne dunghill, harke what account they make of our destruction, it is therefore your parts my worthy friends and valiant souldiers, to bestirre your selves like men, that they may have the greater overthrow, in being overcome by those men whom they esteeme already vanquished. It is not possible that these villains can entertaine the least delight, unlesse it bee like the Swans carolling, a sure presage of an instant ruine: consider my friends with what advantage you warre against them, you have the Gods on your sides, the winds to helpe you, the shore for your safety, and Fortune for your friend, when as all these are against them; for how can the Gods helpe them that are profest enemies to those celestial Dieties, how can the winds favour them that imprison them to so bad purpose,

E

pose, how can the shore yeeld them succour that are enemies to all men, and how can fortune be their friend, that make so ill use of their prosperity, these are such like men as not many yeares agoe you vanquisht on the coast of *Barbary*, and it may be, they are the relikes of those dispersed fleetes, newly gathered to a head and venturing againe to sea, that they may the second time be overcome by you; the power of a iust cause is on your side, and what can be a greater motive to whet on valour, you have honest minds and settled resolutions, and what can bee a greater rampire against the feare of approaching danger. you have the glory of former victories in the like kinde, and what greater spurre to animate resolution: you have all things necessary and convenient for the fight, far off, or neere at hand, and what more could you wish? courage then, and what advantage honest and true men have against theeves and robbers, the same assure your selves to bee on your sides; aquit your selves like valiant men, and hearts rather then tongues, witnesse to your the selves full assurance of a happy victory.

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No sooner had he made an end of speaking, but hee commanded to give the signall to the fight, which was done accordingly, and was answered with the like from the enemies; whereupon both fleetes moved forward by the helpe of their oares each bearing the sea before them, till the mounting bellowes meeting one another seemed to fight together as if they would presage whether side should have the victory by their distraction, the Pyrats had the greater multitude, but the *Spaniards* had the stronger vessells, so that there was small odds on either side, the ones multitude serving to resist the others strength, & their strength serving as a maine bulwarke to defend them from the others multitude, now was the battell begunne with whole showers of darts, arrowes, & stones, sent from either side, now began all things to bee in a hurly burly, the sayles grew to bee full of holes, as if they would let the winde loose from their hollow prisons; the masts began to totter, the upper workes of the gallies began to cracke, and the men began to drop downe, washing the hatches with their dearest blood, the sea began to change

colour, blushing to bee the supporter of
 such massacres, horror was figured in her
 proper colours, and the fierce God of war
 armed himselte in blood and grisly
 wounds: cruelty ranged up and downe
 the fleetes, leaving no squadron unvisited,
 fierce balls of wildfire were thrown about
 to set fire on the moving houses: at last,
 as if they had agreed upon it, they resol-
 ved to board each other, and therefore
 casting forth the grapling hookes, they
 fastned their shippes together; but then
 began as it were a new battell, for the
 manner of the fight, though nothing dif-
 fering from the former in cruelty, unless
 that, it was more bloody and deadly: now
 beganne they to use their swords & pikes
 sometimes assailing the others, and strive-
 ing to get into their enemies shippes, some-
 times defending themselves and repulsing
 the others from entring into theirs, shive-
 red pikes flew into the aire, and swordes
 that once glistered like to polished glasse
 now lost their colour and dyed themselves
 in a bloody scarlet; here might you see a
 head tumbling on the floore with the
 tongue still moving (as it were) cursing

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the sword that parted it from the beloved body ; here an arme lopt off griping a sword, as it were threatning his enemies to the death; here a helmet cleft in two, there a target broken in peeces ; so that it was a wonder to behold the severall effects of bloody warre.

Amongst all this confusion the two *Sicilians* behaved themselves beyond wonder, as if *Mars*, and his sister *Bellona* had assumed the shapes of youths & come to aide the *Spaniards*, and not as if they had beene but pupills in the scates of chivalry, all the while before it came to boording they stood still, incouraging on those that wrought in the engines, but no sooner were the grapling yrons cast out, & the ships intangled together, but they leapt both together into the Admirall of the *Pyrats*, and in spight of all opposition, with their swords they laid about them lustily, quickly scouring the hatches and making a way for others to follow them : which *Martoll* seeing, perceiving that now or never he was to use his uttermost valour, like a chafed bore, hee leapt to him that was next him, which happened to bee

Marturio, who feeling such weighty
 blowes fall so thicke on his helmet, hee be-
 thought himselfe, that such wares were not
 to be hoorded up without repayment, hee
 leapt a little backe, and bravely meet him.
 So have I scene two angry bulles devide the
 way between them in an equall disttance, &
 then that their meeting might be the lesse
 friendly, runne at each with their utmost
 might, that with the fury of their boy-
 strous shooke, the earth hath resounde, and
 the scarefull heard stand amazedly gazing
 at eithers savagene. With the like fury did
 these two valiant combatants behave them-
 selves, making as much fire start out of
 their iteely helmes, as *Vulcan* when he
 beates new thunderbolts on his hardned
 anvill, the grace of the combat was lost
 for want of beholders, only the Sunne
 stood still, wondring that the ones strength
 could resist the others fury, or his fury sup-
 port the others strength, despaire and rage
 whetted on the furious *Martoll*, honour
 and fame animated the bold *Marturio*,
 so that long it was ere either could get the
 better of other, but both held up with an
 equall courage.

The

The like combate was betweene *Roderigo* and the fierce *Folco* the Pyrats bold vifca-dmirall, fo that the bravery of thefe two fights, farre furpassed the fury of the other fight, ftrong assaults, and as ftrong wards were not wanting on either fide, huge blowes and nimble avoidances were fo frequent, that after fome time of fight they grew well experienced in each others manner of fighting, ftiffe *Martoll* and ftrong *Folco* used downe right blowes, which ô huge, and guided with fo ftrong armes, as would have cloven oakes had they ftood in their way: nimble *Marturio* and fprightly *Roderigo*, rather used light avoidances, continually traversing the ground, that they might both the better avoide the huge blowes of their adverfaries, and have alfo the more advantage againft them. So have I feene a nimble maftiue about to feize on a favage bul, how he comes creeping on the ground, to get if he can under power of his enemies hornes, well knowing the danger of his headftrong adverfary, till finding oppertunity hee fiercely leapes at his eares or nofe, and having gotten hold, gives not over till hee

have brought the bellower on his knees: in this manner this combat continued betwene them a long time, till at last *Martoll* (not beeing able longer to abide the force of his puissant enemy) fell downe dead at his feet, as *Felco* did also at the victorious *Roderigoes*.

Till this time had the fight continued in an equall ballance, Fortune her selfe scarce knowing on which side the dice would runne; but no sooner did the Pyrats see their chiefe Captaines fall (like huge towers) on the bloody hatches, but their hearts died within them, and they stood still and unmou'd, like those men that *Medusa's* head transformed into stones, upon this advantage the *Spaniards* tooke fresh courage, and afresh boarding them, they entred almost without resistance, and being whetted on with rage, they made such havocke as would have moov'd hard rockes to pittie. What pen is able to relate the extreme confusion of that houre, the Pyrats cryed out mercy, the *Spaniards* cryed out *Victoria*; yet could not the ones cryes obtaine mercy, nor was the others victory without excesse of blood: the sea chafes

chafes to see that his waters were not sufficient to wash away their blood, and the heavens dropt downe teares to see the cruelty of the others, who no intreaties could perswade to pittie, at length the retreat was founded; and they that escaped the fury of the slaughter were presently put to the oares, that it was had to judge whither had the harder fortune, they that were slaine in battell, or they that after the battell, were reserved to slavery.

Due thanks being rendred unto the Gods for so great a victory, the Duke who by chance had seene the latter end of the fight, between the foure brave combatants, called *Marturio* and *Roderigo* before him, and after a multitude of excessive praises for their admirable valour, hee rewarded their worths with the honour of knight-hood, whether he joyed more that victory was wonne, or wonne by them, I know not; once his joy was so super-exceeding, that he clasped them about the neckes, and welcom'd them with so naturall a love, as if he had beene their owne father; so did their noble acts worke on his pliant nature.

After-



Afterwards every thing being set in order, they returned home againe; where the good Duke, not contented with the honour that himselfe had done them, presented them to the King, as two inestimable jewells which the whole world could not out valour; relating to him what they were, and how he came by them, with the course of their life since he had them; but above all the rest, he reported the manner of their combate, above measure extolling their courage and skill, recounting what blowes, what wards, had passed as if hee had not onely beene an eye witnesse, but had also taken true notice, of all the blowes that passed betweene them; which the King hearing, hee highly commended them, and that hee might nourish valour in them, hee bestowed on them places of comand, where wee will leave them and returne backe to *Sicily* to see how the wedding goes forward.

The day drew nigh, and every thing was in a forwardnesse, when it fortun'd (such is the frailety of humane estates) that it was crossed by an unlucky accident. Not farre off their liv'd two brothers, famous for

for nothing but infamie, the one named *Hermisda*, and the other *Pollipus*, who were so commonly noted for lewd livers, and licentious libertines, that every man of any good condition hated their company, yet were they strong and hardy, as sometime wee see, nature gives her good gifts to bad men, and keepes them from those that would imploy them to better purposes; so was it with them, for their force they imployed in oppressing the weake, and if they were valiant, it was only in the executing of some villany, rapes and murders were common with them, oppression and wrong were their daily lessons that they never left practising: abundance of wealth they had, partly by inheritance from their ancestors, and partly gotten by extorting usury.

These paire of excellent creatures happened to espie *Callanthia* and *Florella* as they walked in the fields, and were presently stricken with their love, with violence whereof (their lustfull desire not being able to comprise it selfe in any reasonable limits) they grew almost mad, for the obtaining of their longings, love or lust rather

rather had so possessed their braines that whatsoever *Hermisda* fancied it was still concerning *Calanthia*, and all *Pollipus* imaginations were set on worke to admaire the excellencies of *Florella*: To speake to them they thought it vaine, because they knew themselves hated, and it had beene dangerous for them, in regard of many iniuries that they had done old *Clidamas*, therefore smothering their affections, till they might finde a time to vent them, and therefore they awaited an opportunity which thus offered it selfe unto them.

One day ere the morne expected the returne of *Apollo* from the bed of the seas Queene, old *Clidamas* roused up the lovers from their early beds, to hunt the stagge in the neighbouring forrest, the huntsmen quaintly attired all in greene, with their hornes about their neckes, and their javelins in their hands, stood at the entring of the wood to welcome them with the sound of their merry bugles, their eager bloodhounds longing for the pray, stood whining as angry to bee kept so short: the two gentlewomen mounted on a couple of swift palfries rode like a paire of *Diana's* nymphs,

nimphes, gaurded with a troope of lusty
 Sylvanes: the game was a foot, and the
 following dogs with a gallant cry, made
 the shrill Ecco bable to the woods, a lan-
 guage that shee understood not, poore silly
 wat frightened with the noyse, stretched
 out his smal legs to their utmost length,
 and with a pace outstripping *Boreas*,
 he taught the lazy cures to passe them-
 selves in swift careeres, the merry hunt-
 men with their lowd hallowes encouraged
 on the eager persuers.

Whilst thus the sport grew hot and e-
 very one attended the game, the false *Hor-
 misda* and treacherous *Polipus*, watching
 their time when all the rest were out of
 sight, and the two maidens onely in their
 views, of whom on purpose they set a
 watchfull eye to marke what way they
 tooke, before themselves could tell what
 danger was neere them, they violently sei-
 zed on them, and stopping their mouthes
 least their cries should bewray them, they
 carried them straight to their castle; for
 they durst not stay longer in the wood for
 feare of being spied: when they had them
 there in their owne power, they fell to
 com-

comforting them, telling them great stories of their loves, what continuall torments they had indured for their sakes, and how much they feared death, if they did not prove gracious, with many other such dissembling insinuations; which sounded to the poore gentlewomens eares, like the harsh clattering of weapons provided to murder them; yet knowing in whose power they were, and hoping for suddaine helpe from their two lovers, whom they knew would never leave seeking till they had found them, and knowing moreover, the nature of their jaylors, that they would either by faire meanes or foule, by consent or force, obtaine their desires, wherefore they still framed such answers, as still put the suiters in good hope, without any certainty of speeding, which they perceiving, and understanding the difference betwene a willing and a forc't love, as having tri'd both, were the more willing to give way too; at length wearied with their often delays, they urged them to give consent, or else they should bee forc't to it. Which when the gentle creatures heard, with weeping eyes and

and sorrowfull hearts, considering the desperatenesse of their estate, *Calanthia* in the name of her selfe and her sister made this answer.

Blame us not (great *Horismida* and you renowned *Polipus*) if what wee account so deere, we are so loth to part with, consider there is nothing so precious to a woman, as her virginity: neither is there any thing that shee can call her owne after shee hath lost that, then condemne us not if selfelove make us so chary of that which is our only treasure: yet for your sakes (if blushes would give me leave) I would part with it, upon one condition, and it is but a small one, that you will grant us time to bewaile the losse of our honour, and afterwards wee will yeeld our selves up to your pleasure: if you refuse to grant us this poore request, know, this knife shall sooner end my dayes, rather then you shall enjoy the least favour from us, and of this resolve your selves.

This answer was so pleasing to them who beleeu'd shee had spoken as shee thought, and therefore kissing them over and over, they granted foure dayes space,
(which

(which was the time of their owne request, and in which they look't for helpe) but the brothers bewitch't with joy and delight, thought verily that not any man had seene them, or if they were descried, trusting to the strength of their castle, with hearts overcharged with delightfull fancies, they left the sisters together; who being now alone, and looking more narrowly into the certainty of their approaching danger, it made the salt teares trickle down their faire cheekes, sad silence lock't up their ruby lips, and imprisoned their griefes in the delicate prison of their hollow breasts, till at last the sweet *Florella* (whose sweetnesse surpassed the fairenesse of the morning) uttered her grieve in this dolefull manner.

Can it bee that I should iudure all this and live? O then I see the fates have destined mee to too much misery, O *Polydore*, why have the Gods laid such a plague on thee, (for I know thou so esteem't it) to be rob'd of thy *Florella*? but more then miserable *Florella*, to bee thus stolen from thy *Polydore*; if for any fault of mine, ye Gods, ye have laid this misery on me, ô take

time, that wee might bee the more sure of comfort. But what if they come not in that time (said *Florella*?) why than wee must resolve to dye nobly (said *Callanthia*) for never will I consent to dishonour my selfe, for feare of death. Truly (said *Florella*) I am yet of that minde to, but I know mine owne weaknes to be such, that I am not certaine how the terroure of death will shake me, and therefore if it bee your pleasure to put mee to so fierce a triall, I doe beseech you ô yee gods, to give me strength and patience to endure it. Keepe thee in that minde still (said *Callanthia*) and thou wilt doe well enough, with these like discourses they passed away the time, till the foure dayes of their limitation were out, and the morning was the fatall day, either of their death or delivery: this put the poore virgins to their utmost plunges, yet resolving themselves not to flye from that their vertuous determination, they expected the sentence of their deaths.

The night vanished, and the early cocke (the true herald of the day) shew'd the approaching of the rosie morrow, when lustfull *Hornisda* and his compere *Polipus* arose

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arose, and doing (more than usuall) deu-
 tions to the rising sunne, they went to the
 chamber of the sorrowfull sisters, whom
 they found up and ready, as leth to be ta-
 ken a bed, by such as they, though they
 wish't it had been otherwise, yet not car-
 ring much for it, the lustfull brothers fell
 to dallying with them, which they, be-
 cause they would not give them the least
 pleasure, being determind to dye, rudely
 repulsed, yet still new batteries were layd
 to their fortes of chastitie, which were
 still beate backe as violently as they were
 presented shamelesly; at last growing past
 patience by so many (as they call'd them)
 injuries, *Hornisda* in a great chafe thus
 thundred. 'Tis true I say, that too much
 familiaritie begets contempt, else had not
 our gentle loves beene refused, if wee had
 used such meanes as was becomming us,
 but since faire meanes can worke nothing
 with such waspes as you, wee will try our
 owne way, and see if wee can get that by
 force, which wee could not by intreaty.
 Foule devill (replyed *Callantbia*) doe thy
 worst, 'tis not thy terrifying threats that
 can dismay us or alter our determinations,

for know that wee are resolved to dye rather than to yeeld to thy villanie. Yet you shall dye (said hee) but first will I have my fill of you, then perchance, my sword shall bee so mercifull as to rid you out of the world, in the meane time let you and I strive for masterie, and therewith he violently tooke her by the haire, as *Polipus* did the like to the tender *Florella*, forcibly dragging them to the beds side, whil'st thus (poore sonles) made what shift they could to defend themselves: and praying to the iust God to lend them strength sufficient to resist those tyrants.

Now was their forces lost, and the cruel wretches had almost laid them on the lothed beds, when on a sudden they were scared with the noise of a hideous outcry, the castle was up in an uproare, and every man cryed arme, arme; whereupon, the brothers fearing what might happen, and making account that another time might serve for their mischeivous purpose, they went to see what this suddaine outcry pretended, when presently mounting on the castle walls, they might descry a troupe of armed men, coming in all hast toward them,

them, whereupon, presently suspecting who they were, they provided for their defence: but wee must of necessitie a while, looke backe to them that wee left hunting in the wood.

Every man was so earnest at the sport, that no one tooke heed to the two sisters, so they were seiz'd on, and carried away not being seen of any, save a poore shepherd, who knew the man best, not the woman.

The fearfeull stagge wearied with the continuall motion of so swift a pace, began to despaire of any longer safety by his legs, and therfore turning his taile to a tree, hee laid about him with his faire branch of weapons, so that hee made the cruell blood-hounds pause upon the sight, and as it were to take counsell whether it were better to rebegin, or quite give o're the battell: which the huntf-man perceiving, and finding by the change of the cry, that he was at a bay, they came in, & with their horns encouraged th m, who therby taking fresh heart, never gave over till they had brought the vaunting champion on his knees, than would it have mov'd remorse



to see the gentle beast lament his death in many a brine salt teare, as it were blaming mans crueltie, for whetting on his enemies to kill him.

The sport was done and every one returned homeward, when (and not before) *Callantbia* and *Florella* were miss, these newes strooke a cold feare to the heart of *Cliauthis* and *Polydore*, presaging the danger that was like to fall unto them, present search was made, every one taking a severall way, and traversing the whole wood, yet all returning without any newes of any thing, but that they were not to be found. *Cliauthis* like a franticke man ranne about calling on *Callantbia*, and *Polydore* rid as hee had lost his wits, crying nothing but *Florella*, yet neither could *Cliauthis* receive any answer from *Callantbia*, nor *Polydore* from *Florella*. Eccho condoling these true lovers miseries, holpe them to call, for no sooner could *Cliauthis* call *Callantbia*, but the eccho would take the word and call *Callantbia*, no sooner could *Polydore* cry out *Florella*, but eccho would second him, and cry out *Florella*, as if shee would have summoned all the powers in heaven

heaven and earth, to the search of *Callan-
thia* and *Florella*.

Thus long in vaine they sought, yet would not be perswaded that they sought in vaine, every sound they heard seemed the answeres of their dearest loves, flattering their eares with these imaginations, so long, till at the last they knew that they were onely flattered, and therefore plainly perceiving that they were not there to bee found, with carefull hearts, and sorrowfull thoughts, they returned home againe: where contrary to their expectation, they heard newes of them; for *Clidimas* as the rest, wandering up and downe the wood, hapned to meete with the Shepherd, of whom inquiring if hee saw any such, hee made him answer plainly, that they were perforce carried away, by *Hormisdas* and *Polipus*; g'ad hee was that hee had heard newes of his daughters, yet was he greived extremely to heare they were in such a place; but making necessity a vertue, hee went home, and telling these newes to the lovers, and others that were present, they forthwith consulted to regaine them by force, for by intreaty they knew it was in

given, the assault began, the ladders were set up to the walls, and the souldiers mounted up to the top of them, from whence they were thrust downe headlong by the defendants, to receive their deaths kisse at the ground; but the two lovers burning in rage, and thinking the delay of victory a kinde of overthrow, guarding themselves with their broad sheilds, and taking their trusty swords in their hands, they valiantly got footing on the walls, maugre all the resistance that could possibly be made, where with their swords they made havocke of all that were nigh them, making way for their souldiers to follow them, who without delay did so, and so became masters of the wall: which *Hormisda* and *Polypus* perceiving, and not daring to encounter them for all their vaunting, they fled by a posterne to *Palermo*, the men of the Castle seeing their Captaines were fled, presently threw away their weapons, and craved mercy: which was as soone granted them.

Things being thus ordered, *Clianthis* and *Polydore*, leaving the other businesse to be managed by *Clidamas*, ranne into the Castle

Castle from chamber to chamber, seeking
 their loves, whom when they found, you
 may imagine what joy, what kisses, what
 embraces passed between them, for so blest
 a meeting; hand in hand they went out of
 the chamber, till they came to the sight of
 old *Clidamas*, who (overcome with excessse
 of joy) ranne and tooke them about the
 neckes, kissing them, and welcomming as if
 hee had not seene them in a long time be-
 fore, but when they had recounting in
 what danger they had been, and how neer-
 ly they had escaped ravishing, wonder and
 joy stopt up their speech, and they stood
 like men confounded with excessse of pas-
 sion, out of which they were no sooner a-
 waked, but yeelding due praise to the ce-
 lestiall powers, that continually guard the
 vertuous, and setting all things in order,
 they left that lothed place, and returned
 home againe to their owne habitations, at-
 tending the day of marriage, till when, we
 will once againe leave and returne our
Sicilians in the court of *Scaine*.

Long time they lived there, dayly in-
 creasing their fame with new deedes of
 armes, yet knowne to be no other than the
 poore

poore fishermans sonnes of *Tarracona*. Till at the last Fortune offered them a glorious occasion, to build an ever d/ing statue to eternize them to all succeeding generations, and thus it was.

It fortun'd (besides the generall greifes which were before taken) there sprang up a new particular occasion of debate; betweene the King of *Spaine* and *Tunis*: for as before time, there had beene a league, for entercourse of merchants betweene the two kingdomes. It sel out that upon some occasion of dislike, false *Mariabdel* on a suddaine, when they dreamt of no such treacherie, caus'd all the Spanish ships that were in his dominion, to be seized on, and the goods to be confiscated: as for the men, some hee caus'd cruelly to bee slaine, others he made slaves, to tugge at the oares in his gallies; this indignity seemed so greivous, that the King of *Spaine* hearing of it, sent his Ambassadors to *Tunis*, to demand restitution of those things that were so spoiled, or else to denounce warre against him; restitution was denied, and their defiance was laught at, as if the denouncers had bin children, or boies not worthie to be answered,

red, or regarded: for the fell tyrant strong
perswaded of the truth of the Oracle, fea-
red not any danger, but what came from
Sicily, & therefore (with a scornfull smile)
hee made answer to the Ambassadors, in
these or the like words.

You have spoke well, and to a good pur-
pose, and I cannot but commend the ele-
gancie of your stile; but let me tell you, that
you want the cheifest part of rhetorick per-
suasion: your oration in some other man
(I must confesse) might have begat a kinde
of alteration, but in mee, it workes no more
than if I had beene deafe when you were
speaking; for thinke not my nature can be
changed by words, or that what I have once
but determined to doe, much lesse what I
have alreadie done, can be altered either by
fair perswasions or your bitterest menaces;
what I have done, I meane not to repent of,
your merchants have offended me, and
therefore have I punished them according
to mine owne will, as being an absolute
King in mine owne dominions: What I
have got, I'll keepe, and sooner shall hee
have this head from these shoulders, than
I will consent to the restitution of our
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to be

poore device : Goe therefore, and tell your King, that I neither minde his flatteries, nor feare his threats, when he comes he shall be welcome, but I doubt hee will bee so long coming, that his minde will be altered before he set forward on his voyage.

With this answer, the Ambassadors being dismissed with as much honour as was to bee expected in so barbarous a place, returned home againe, where they reported the effect of their ambassage; which the King hearing, his heart was filled with so just an anger, that he forthwith proclaimed open warres, presently giving commandment for the preparation of galleyes, and other navall furniture, fit for so weightie an expedition, as for the levying of men, both mariners and souldiers: the managing of the whole businesse hee committed to the Duke of *Milnia Sidonia*, who was no way slacke in performing his dutie, everie thing being in readines, they set forward, but they had not gone halfe the way, ere they met with the huge flecte of bold *Mariabdel*, who as soone as the Ambassadors were departed, provided every thing fitting, as loth to be taken tardie in such a businesse, and therefore

therefore choosing rather to meete the enemy, than to bee inclosed in his citie walls, he went out to encounter them in the mid-way, no sooner had the fleetes descried each other, but they made defiance, and the battell began, wherein Fortune (according to her blinde wisdom guided) gave the victorie to the barbarians, for the good Duke being overcloied with coldes, perceiving he had lost the greater number of his ships, with a heaue heart he sounded the retreat, and fled.

Two such other fleetes were set out from *Spaine*, that returned home againe, these misfortunes greatly stirred the resolution of the King of *Spaine*, so that ignorant in himselfe what to doe, hee called his counsell together to heare their advise, what course he should take in this extremitie; the counsell being assembled, and everie man commanded to speake his minde. The Marquesse of *Santa Cruz* (who was a man that never from his youth affected the warres) stood up, and spake to this effect.

Had this order beene taken before this unhappy difference was begun, it might have saved the effusion of much innocent blood.

bloud, and the expence of many millions
of crownes: which now are vainely wa-
sted in these bloody broiles; then it should
not have been needfull to inquire whether
it were better to proceed any further in
this unfortunate warre, or quite to give it
over with dishonor and disadvantage: but
since it pleased your Majestie then to pro-
ceed according to your owne minde, with-
out the advise of your counsell, (which
I wish to the Gods you had not) I will not
urge that point any further, but come to
the maine matter that is in question. I am
not such an enemy to warre, that I should
utterly banish it, nor do I thinke so dege-
nerately of souldiers, as to esteeme them of
no use, or service in a Kingdome; for I
know that warre is the arme of a country,
and souldiers are the sinews of a common-
wealth; but if this arme be broke with un-
necessarie toyle, if the sinewes bee stretched
past their naturall length, marvaile not if
the whole bodie bee not out of joint: the
cheife end of war is to defend our selves,
not to offend others, and therefore peace
is said to be the childe of warre, which
could not be, if for everie light occasion we
should

should move unnecessarie debates, but to
 the purpose. *Mariabdel*a hath offred inju-
 ry to our merchants, revenge hath beene
 fought, and still wee have come home by
 the worst, and yet wee inquire, what is to
 bee done? alas, what doe wee aile to move
 such a needlesse question? Aske the mer-
 chant that hath lost his venture, whether
 hee had rather keepe that hee hath toge-
 ther, or hazard more to a certaine ruine?
 can wee expect any hope of victorie, now
 our strengths are weakned? the best of our
 ships are sunke and spoiled, the greatest
 part of our treasures wasted, and the most
 of our souldiers slaine, that could not ob-
 taine it when all these were whole; but
 you may say, the fortune of the fight may
 change, and what wee could not get by
 force, wee may obtaine by some cunning
 stratagem: a weak confidence God knows,
 to trust to fortunes favour now, that have
 hitherto had her frownes, and a vaine toy
 to thinke to entrap *Mariabdel*a by a poli-
 cie, that hath beene all his life time a ma-
 ster in warres discipline. I knew *Midnia*,
 to be a wise and prudent cheifetaine, and
 his souldiers to be men of excellent valour,
 yet

yet this same *Midnia* hath beene over-
reach't by *Mariabdel*, and his souldiers
have beene vanquished by the other barba-
rians: 'tis true, that chance carries a great
stroke in militarie affaires, yet 'tis a cold
comfort, to hope for a happie chance,
where there is no likelihood to beare off
the shocke: and little cause have wee to
trust to fortunes ficklenes, that lost her in
so good a cause, but fortune is blinde;
and therefore I will speak no more of her,
as not esteeming her worthy to be account-
ed of in mans affaires, rather I judge that
the divine providence, for some greivous
offences of ours, have laid this plague up-
on us: and therefore, to strive further a-
gainst the gods, I think you will say 'twere
madnes. What should we say, the Com-
mons crie out, for the greivous taxations
raised upon them, to maintaine the war,
which sorting to so unwelcome an end,
cannot choose but be a great greife to all,
the treasuries are drawne drie, the navy is
unfurnished, widowes in ev'ry place la-
ment the losse of their husbands, fathers,
and mothers sit weeping and wailing for
the untimely losse of their deare children.


G

Marabdel

Mariabdel laughs at our teares, and make the miserie of our losses, the trophies to renoune his victory; and for all these expences, not onely the first indignitie is not revenged, but also it is made greater by many new and latter misfortunes: they being enriched with our losses, and making provision for themselves of our stores. My advise therefore to your Majesty is; that you would finde out some honourable conditions of peace to be offered the barbarians, rather than to continue the war, that hath hitherto sorted so unluckily on our sides, and therewith he ceased. Whereupon the Duke of *Midnia*, whose valour, fortune could never diminish, though shee might frown upon his actions, hearing he rose, and making due reverence, he spake to this purpose.

What honourable peace can the King of *Spain* make with *Mariabdel*, when he was the first that provoked the *Tunisian* to fight? I grant this had beene good counsell at first, before the majesty of a Kingdome had beene ingaged upon the enterprise, but now, since it hath proceeded so far, as to the sterne deciding of the sword;

I hold it no way honourable, for a little losse, to hazard the perpetuall honour of a mightie Kingdome, which cannot be avoided, if wee give over now so faintly, what we begun with such alacritie; what though we have lost the fortune of a day or two, is that of force to impoverish a whole Kingdome? (as you my Lord of *Santa Crux* would make us beleieve) can the expence of a million, were it two, empty the coffers of this *Spaine*? you much undervalew the renewes of this rich Kingdome, to thinke so poorely of it; but if it were true, that these warres have so exhausted the treasuries, that the remainder will not suffice to furnish another fleete, is *Spaine* (I pray you) growne so desolate, that it hath no friend to helpe her in an extremitie so urgent? what is become of *Italy*, the ancient friend of *Spaine*? where is spacious *France*? is *Sicily* vanish't? is *Rhodes* perish't? is *Malta* drowned in the sea? or is the famous *Greece* sunke into the earth? can it be that none of these should yeeld us succour? Is it possible, that *Mariabdel* should have done no wrong to any of them? did not the fierce *Martoll* (waged by the King of


Tunis) rescue the ships of *Candy* ? force the
 fleet of *Malta*, spoile the navy of *Rhodes*,
 and rancome certaine *Sirians* bound for
Greece, never sparing to doe any villany,
 till my selfe with the helpe of the brave
 brothers, overcame him; and since his
 death, have not whole fleetes of rovers bin
 set forth from *Tunis*, to rob and spoile,
 so that no merchants dare passe to and fro
 in any part of the straits, and doe you
 thinke that all these injuries can bee put in
 silence, as would bee, if these petty kings
 and princes had but the countenance of the
 great King of *Spaine* to animate them, per-
 haps you would have them come and of-
 fer their service unto you, unsent for, small
 reason for that, when you have not sent
 them any notice of your purposes, which
 if you neglected (as scorning to use the
 power of your inferiours) it was ill done,
 if as trusting to your owne force, to goe
 through with the enterprise, you see you
 are too fond in that: but never can it be too
 late to learne wisdom, and to put in pra-
 ctise any honourable action, it cannot be,
 that if your Majesty send your Ambassa-
 dors to these Princes, to crave their aide,
 they

they should be denied, nay rather it seemes to me, that they will (more than willingly) imbrace the motion, whereby, they shall not onely redeeme their owne particular losses, but also binde the great king of *Spaine* to be their friend; with the aide of them, you may furnish out another armie, which shall not onely beate the proud *Barbarian*, but also fully redeeme the dishonour, and the losse of the former battell: you urge the teares of orphans, the cries of widowes, the laments of parents, and the wailing of freinds, as if they were not incident to the warres, can it bee (I pray you) that a battell should bee fought, and not one slaine? and if some bee slaine? can it bee there should bee none to bemoane them? or doe yee thinke there bee no wet eyes in *Barbarie*, as well as here in *Spaine*.? *Mariabdel* I am sure bought not his victory so cheape, nor am I a man so noted for cowardise, to give over the fight for nothing; I never fled before I met with *Mariabdel*, and then, I thinke I was vanquish't, meerely and solely, by the overpresse of multitudes: almost two for one were slaine on their partie, yet still

they were supply ed with fresh ones, that it amazed mee, to see them spring up so fast (like *Hydraes*-heads) when one was lopt off, two arose in their places, so that (if I may speake it without being taxed of boasting) I thinke wee were overcome onely by being wearie of conquering; and I suppose, that the conquerour lost more, than wee that were vanquished: and well might they say with their countie-man *Hanniball*, many such victories would undoe them. Consider I pray, wee went (as you know) not past fifty gallies strong, when as *Mariabdel*, met us with about two hundred, and yet against such, we held out fight for the space of five yceres, without any signe of disadvantage: imagine what wee could have done, had wee beene of any equality. These things considered, (my gracious Lord) it is my opinion, that it were best for your majestie, to send your messengers to the mighty young Princes for aide, wherewith you may raise such an army, as may quell the vaunting foe, and bring him downe in spite of his sun-burnt *Moores*: for my selfe I shall be ready as I have beene heretofore, to spend my best indeavours

indeavours in your graces service, so hee ceased; when presently *Marruvio* arose, and making all humble reverence, he spake on this manner.

If it shall not seeme too much arrogance (my noble Lordes) for such younglings verdites amongst so many *Nestors*, or if wee bee not overhasty in speaking already, that should rather bee seven yeares in hearing, I shall with confidence reveale a secret, which hath long time beene hammering in my head. What you my Lords of *Misania*, and *Santa Crux* have worthily spoken, hath its time, but not now; (pardon me if I reject such worthy counsell) for if what I have thought, may bee put in action, neither needeth his Majesty to seeke to the *Barbarian* for peace, nor to continue the warre, which hath already beene so unfortunate, and are both so unluckily to succeed any thing well: for what peace, how little soever honour it may carry with it is to bee expected from *Mariabdelah*? whose nature seemes to be bloudily desirous of warre, that I suppose he did this injury to the merchants, as one-ly weary of an idle peace, and thirsting greedily

greedily after death and spoile, and therefore it makes mee thinke, that hee will bee so farre from accepting a league of amity, now hee hath once bene flesh't in victory, that hee will rather come to seeke us at our owne homes, if wee once give him over; he wil with whole worlds of *Moors*, come up and spoile the country, and when your Ambassadors shall bee heard to treat for peace, hee will bee thereby the more animated, as thinking it to bee done for feare. Hee is no childe, to thinke that wee would let him rest if wee could choose, besides, no honourable conditions of peace can bee concluded on, without requiring restitution of the wrongs done to the Merchants, and doe you thinke that hee will heare it once spoken of, now hee is puffed up with fame and victory, that was so farre off from consenting to it before the warre? never thinke that hee that dares doe a villany, when he knows not his own strength, will make any amends for it, when hee knowes he can defend himselfe: so for any further proceeding in the warres, I hold that to be as unprofitable too, not because I thinke we have no souldiers left, that dare

not

not fight, or no commanders that dare valiantly leade them on, or that I despaire of the helpe of the neighbouring Princes, but that I am verily perswaded, that all these together cannot make an army potent enough to meete him with two hundred sayle; as hee met our fleete of fifty: and do you thinke he can make no more, now hee hath taken so many of ours, and hath had so much time to provide more of his own? He hath all *Africk* at his command, a country large and wide, sufficiently provided of timber, to make many fleetes of gallies, bigger than all our kingdome is able to make, and wonderfully replenished with a world of nations: 'tis true as my Lord Admirall hath said, that the onely advantage hee hath had against us, hath been by overpresse of multitude, and shall wee thinke that hee will at any time want that advantage, having such an innumerable company of people that yet never saw the sea? who though they bee not so experienced in fights, yet will they stand a blow, and so (as my Lord said) wee shall bee againe vanquished, with wearinesse of overcoming. I am no coward, that I dare

not



not fight (for bee it spoken without boasting) were it put upon the point, my selfe would encounter with the whole hoste of *Mariabdelá*, came hee in his greatest power, but what good successe I should have, your Lordships may imagine: but I speake this, to save the great effusion of humane blood, that must of necessity bee spilt in these bloody actions, howsoever they speed. I speake it to dry up the teares of women and children, for the losse of their husbands and fathers; I speake it to stop the clamorous grumbling of the greived commons, that have beene; and still must bee, if the warre continue, taxed and oppressed with subsidies and toles, that of necessity they must bee drawne dry, or else fall to flat rebellion against his majesty, which might beget another danger greater than the former. Yet would I not have your majesty wholly to give over the enterprise, for I would not be thought to think so basely and poorely of the majesty of the kingdome of *Spaine*, but a way is to bee found out, which may make amends for all injuries, yet neither by seeking to the Tyrant for peace, nor by vexing our selves

selves with any further broiles; but the
 matter needes not much conference, for
 my selfe with the assistance of my brother
 (and therewith *Roderigo* stood up too)
 have found out a way (which if it shall
 please your Majesty, and you my noble
 Lordsto countenance,) I doubt not, but
 will bring the Tyrant *Mariabdela* to
 make you such recompence as you shall
 aske of him, or else hee shall forfeite his
 head to your Majesties clemency. The at-
 tempt in it selfe is dangerous, but what
 danger can appall a minde greedy of ho-
 nour? nor shall you thinke, that wee have
 invented a thing, wherein we shal have the
 glory of the counsell, and some other the
 danger of the action; for as wee have beene
 the first founders, so doe wee also offer our
 selves (if it stand with your Majesties good
 liking) to put in execution our owne devi-
 ces. I have heard it reported that the only
 men in the world that *Mariabdela* fears,
 are *Sicilians*, moved therto by a certain o-
 racle (how true, I know not) that a *Sicilian*
 and none else, shall bee his overthrow:
 and to this end, doth hee use all the meanes
 he can to get all *Sicilians* into his clutches,
 and

and having them, hee cruelly butchers
 them, as for other nations, hee entertaines
 men of all sorts into his service, without
 respect of any whatsoever. I will not dis-
 pute of the truth of this oracle, least I might
 seeme to question the knowledge of the di-
 vine powers; rather I think, this oracle de-
 livered in such plain words, does as al ora-
 cles use to doe, carry a double meaning,
 so wrapped and clouded in ambiguous
 obscurity, that onely the event of all must
 make it apparant: for seldome do the gods
 give forth their oracles, but the same
 implies a quite contrary thing, than is
 propounded by the bare words, which is
 alwaies manifested by the event; howsoe-
 ver, it is not my purpose, to enter into any
 mens discourse, onely my intent is by
 deedes, to make prooffe whether the words
 of the oracle, and the meaning of it doe
 concurre together. But to come to the
 point, my brother and my selfe, according
 to a settled determination (which wee still
 submit to bee fashioned on the anvile of
 your grave wisdom) will as it were in
 secret depart from hence to *Tunis*, where
 by some meanes or other, wee will get ad-
 mittance

mittance into the Kings service, when if the meaning of the oracle deceive me not, wee shall use such meanes, as to bring the Tyrant away with us to *Spaine*, else let us dye forgot and unregarded; this if it happen according to our intentions, as the willing forwardnesse of my heart makes mee presage it will, you may then use your owne pleasure, whil' it you have him in your power: but if it please the Gods that wee miscarry in the action, it cannot greatly hurt the state, but you may at your pleasure either conclude all, with what honourable peace you can, or else if that bee refused, you may proceed in the warre, in either of which two businesses, our two lives can finally shade you; this is our advise, which if it please your Majesty to assent to, shall before to morrow morning bee put in practise: and I beseech the Gods, that the event may bee as fortunate, to the good of *Spaine* and you, as wee with wishing heartes, and more wills to goe forward, than to give it over, doe undergoe the enterprife.

No sooner had hee made an end of speaking, but a generall silence was over the whole

whole house, every man above measure, wondring at the great courages of the noble youthes, thinking a thing almost incredible, that such young yeares should harbour so much valour, at last the Mar-quesse of *Biscay*, who was a man singularly reputed for wisedome and courage, and had all this while attentively listned to the wordes of the young man, marking with what confidence hee spake, as if the thing had beene done already, and not still to doe, rose up and spake thus.

For evetmore blest bee the gracious Gods of *Spaine*, for sending hither two such excellent men in so great a danger, and happy may that man bee, that first brought them into this assemhly. With favcur of your Majesty and the honourable convent, it may please your Majesty and you my Lords to consider, that there can bee no more said in this businesse, than what hath been already delivered, for either you must as my Lord Marquesse counselleth, seeke out for some honourable conditions of peace, which are as hard to finde, as they are unlikely to speed, or you must as my Lord of *Midnia* advi-
seth,

feth, continue the warre, and send for aide
 to the neighbouring Princes, which way
 as it cannot choose but bee chargeable, so
 it is uncertaine to what end it will sort :
 or if neither of these please you, you must
 of necessity take hold of the device of yong
Martuvio, which as it is in it self, a matter
 dangerous, and hopelesse ever to come to
 good, so being managed by men of such
 excellent wisdom and approved, it
 bindes in my breast a settled hope of a suc-
 cesse, worthy the men that undertake it.
Mariabdelawee know is secure of his fate,
 fearing none but *Sicilians*, and who knows
 but (as *Martuvio* urged) the oracle may
 aime at some thing that is specified by the
 wordes, besides how easie a thing will it be
 for men brought up and exercised in wise-
 dome, to worke upon the nature of a rude
Barbarian? whose onely wisdom is to
 feast and revell, giving himselfe over to
 drunkenesse and sensuality, not fearing
 any thing that may befall him, because
 hee onely feares *Sicilians*, of whom hee
 hath none in all his kingdome, they have
 all things on their side that may animate
 them, excellent shapcs to procure admit-
 tance.

tance, excellent eloquence to perswade, excellent wisdom to insinuate into the secrets of the Barbarian, excellent valour to undertake any danger, that hath the least shew of likelihood, and excellent fortune I hope, to second their just undertakings. Stay not then for second thoughts, but if my counsell, which heretofore hath prevailed with you, may now also bee of force to perswade you; you shall without delay put this attempt in execution, and with your continuall prayers, obtaine a happy end to so couragious an adventure, which howsoever, it may advantage the state, by bringing into your hands the man that hath so annoyd it, yet cannot it much hinder your proceedings, if it fall contrarie to your expectation: I am not so urgent in this businesse, as annoying the glory of the men, and therefore willing to put them upon an adventure, that if it succeed amisse, may bee their inevitable destruction, for the Gods bee my witnesses that my soule loveth them, and I rather bite this tongue out, than it should bee such a traitor to the state, to give such counsell as might rob
the

the kingdome of two such precious jew-
ells : but my heart is (I know not how)
so fully perswaded of the good successe of
this so honourable action, that I imagine,
I should do much wrong to such excellent
valour, if I should bee a meanes to starve
it, by giving counsell to deprive it of such
honourable food to nourish. On therefore
most noble youthes, and may your hande
bee as ready to put in execution, speed in
your successe, and you may returne home
crowned with glory, honour, and vi-
ctory.

This speech so wrought with the whole
assembly, that presently without any
more debating on the matter, every man
gave his assent, and the king highly com-
mending their worth, gave his consent al-
so. Now to avoide all feare of revealing
of the matter, by meanes of spies, or else
by treacherous & malecontented people,
(as is too commonly seene in such busines-
ses) every thing was carried in most admi-
rable secrecy: The two brothers getting
on a suddaine on horsebacke, and riding
in all post-haste to the sea-side, where fin-
ding a fisher-boate, they presently went

H

into

into it, such was their confidence in their just cause, and with it they crossed the seas to *Tunis*. In the meane, time the king of *Spaine*, provided every thing for a new army, as if hee would presently have gone on another voiage in his owne person, and in this preparation wee will leave them.

Our two *Sicilians* row'd so long, till at last they came to their journeyes end, and were no sooner landed, but they were presently set upon by the guard of the place, and strict inquirie was made, who, what, and of whence they were, they made answer, that they were *Spaniards*, and were come to offer up their service to the King of *Tunis*, hereupon, presently they were carried before the king, who being set in his Majestick state, with a sterne countenance, asked who they were? whereupon, *Martuvio* (nothing daunted with his great lookes) boldly made this reply.

The time has beene great king of *Tunis*, when hee that should have said, wee two should have come to offer thee our service, might have perchance received the lye for his



his labour, for wee were once thy profest enemies, nay that if wee could, and would have cut thy head off, had it beene in the midst of this royall pallace; wee are the men, that slew *Martoll* and *Folco*, the two swordes of *Barbary*, and have besides done thee no small mischeife: but now it so falls, that wee that have been thy profest foes, are now become votaries, wee that have done thee so much outrage, are come hither to seeke shelter under thy wings, for the ingratefull king of *Spaine*, not content to leave our vertue unrewarded, (which hee ought to have cherished with the best of his indeavours,) hath gone further, even to the seeking of our lives, and yet (good Gods) how many wayes is that man beholding to us! what had become of the poore Duke of *Midnia*, and his weather-beaten fleete, when they encountred with couragious *Martell*, before *Zanto*, if our swordes had not ended the controversie, by the death of those brave men; for whom, I could weepe, to thinke that such excellent souldiers, should end their lives to benefit thereby, so ingratefull a person, and that by our



hands, to make us so much more miserable: by how much it is more wretched, to bee enforced to aske releife of an enemy, than to remaine at home, in ease and tranquillitie, besides, in those latter fights in which it pleased the Gods to favour mee, what had become of his whole people, if our breasts had not beene the bulwarkes to their safe intreaty? in which though it was our fortune to loose the day, yet I may speake it without boasting, they that escaped alive, may thanke our valours for their safeties, and yet for these things (for I take the Gods to bee my witnesses that we never injur'd him,) this ingrateful king, this king (said I) this any thing, this indeed nothing, laid wait to intrap our lives, but that by speedy flight we prevented it. Wee come therefore to thy imperiall Majesty, as the *Roman Coriolanus*, did to his enemies the *Volscians*, & if it shall please thy Majesty, to commit any charge of trust to us, wee make no doubt, but as *Coriolanus* was the foret enemy to *Rome*, so *Marturio* and *Roderigo* shall prove the greatest opposites to ingratefull *Spaine*.

These words so bewitched the tyrants
affecti-

affection, that hee was on fire to entertaine them, hee saw no cause to feare, they were not *Sicilians*, their speech, their garments, their lookes, and all their gestures, openly proclaimed them *Spaniards*: their sparkling eyes full of revengefull fire, their menacing speeches, replete with deadly threatening, their constant and unmoved gesture answering to their lookes and speeches, did evidently manifest a deadly hatred to their native countrie: their bold adventuring in so small a vessell, argued the necessity of their flight. Valiant hee knew they were, for hee himselfe had had experience of their force, and hee esteem'd them to be wondrous wise, as choosing rather to put in hazard the clemency of their enemy, than to tarry at home with a certaine assurance of destruction, nor did hee want presidents of the like kinde to warrant his acceptance of them, til he had heard of *Coriolanus* the *Romane*, and his flight to the *Volscians*, and what followed thereupon; hee remembred *Themistocles* the *Athenian*, and his escape to the king of *Persia*, as also *Alcibiades* the *Athenian*, and his departure to the *Lacedemonians*:

and why should not the revolt of these two brave *Spaniards*, be as fortunate to him, as that of *Coriolanus* to the *Volscians*, of *Themistocles* to the *Persians*, and of *Alcibiades* to the *Lacedaemonians*? Upon these considerations, and withall building upon his oracle, he bade them heartily welcome, telling them they should enjoy as much safety in his court, as they had found treachery in the court of *Spain*, & that they should find, when occasion served to imploy them, in the mean time, they should be dear to him, and alwayes neere about his person.

The good fortune at the entrance of their enterprile, put our two gallants in an assured hope of an absolute conclusion; and therefore, with attractive greedines they expected opportunitie to put something of their buinesse in practise, much honour was done them by the rude *Barbarian*, and highly respected were they of all men, because every body knew it was the kings pleasure they should bee so respected: the king himselfe exceedingly favouring them, as being bewitched with their insinuating speeches, not knowing that hee hatched serpents to sting himselfe

to

to death, yet did they not want enemies, who laboured what they could to bring them into displeasure with the king, some envying that strangers should bee so highly advanced above the native people, others emulating their glory in deedes of armes, hating all worthinesse in others, because they had none to bragge off in themselves, but others of a more subtle and acute ingenuitie, deeply suspected that this might be some subtle practise from the cunning *Spaniards*, and therefore they used all diligence, to pry into their actions, if perchance, they could learne any thing, to make their suspicion seeme a certainty. But our supposed *Spaniards* used themselves so warily, that they failed of their purpose, yet nevertheless, they ceased not to observe them more narrowly, not sticking at last to unfold their suspicion to the king, using many reasons to perswade him to looke more neerely to himselfe, than to trust his safety to the faith of them, that were borne his enemies, but hee lull'd in securitie by their pleasing his humours, would not listen to any such complaints.

This could not bee so closely carried,

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but

but the two strangers understood it, and therefore wisely considering, that though now they were fully possessed of the kings favour, yet the tide might turne, and hee might bee wrought to injure them, they resolved betweene themselves, that it was time to put in practise their adventure, to which effect, the surest way (as they thought) was, that an army should bee brought from *Spaine* thither, but than they wanted meanes to certifie the king of *spaine* of their purpose, but fortune that would not suffer such designs to perish in the blossome, provided them of a meanes for that too. It fortun'd that a merchant of *Genoa*, at that time residing in *Tunis*, was at that time providing to return home to his owne country, with him they agreed to carry a letter for them, and to convey it to *Spaine*, which hee readily consented to, and accordingly performed.

These newes being on this manner brought to the king of *Spaine*, without any the least suspicion in the *Barbarian* of any such practise, an army was forthwith levied, and set forth under the conduct of the Duke of *Middnia*, in the meane time, the

two brothers, so wrought with the king of *Tunis*, that hee had promised them the conduct of an army, to bee lead against *Spaine*, but this newes of this new army, quite put out such determinations for now it was fitter to looke to his owne defence, than to the assayling of others: and therefore with all speed possibly hee prepared his navy to meete them, some there were, that counsell'd him to leave the *Spaniards* at home, (as it seemed) presaging what afterward proved to bee true, but hee would not by any means heare of any such thing, yet did hee (for the more security as hee thought) take them into his owne gally, because he would bee sure alwayes to have an eye on.

In this manner, they met with the enemy, who presently gave them battell, and the fight was fierce on both sides; in the heate whereof, and when the ships of either partie had boorded each other, and were fast grapled together, the two brothers (who were placed as I said before, in the kings owne ship) thinking now or never, to bee the time they had so long looked for: on a suddaine, they tooke the

the *Barbarian* in their armes, and violently threw him into the ship that was next them, where before hee could rise againe, hee was taken and carried under hatches, the brothers in the meane time, shewing what they were, violently set upon the *Barbarians* in that ship, making a way for the *Spaniards*, who presently boarded her.

This chance so terrified the poore *Africans*, that they knew neither what to say or doe; and the cry went in an instant, that the king was taken: whereupon, being infinitely amazed, and in this amazement the *Spaniards* furiously assaulting them, they lost all courage, and therefore, with what speed they could, ungrapling themselves, in a most confused order they fled, and were as fast pursued by the enemy, who tooke and kill'd as many as they overtooke, in this sort, they reited not, the one party flying, and the other following, till they came to the haven of *Tunis*, where the *Barbarians*, presently getting a shore, made a fresh resistance, to stop al the *Spaniards* from landing, but finally had it advantaged them, being already beaten, and their

their enemies the conquerours, had not presently a flagge beene put out: for the Lordes of the countrey, who were left as governours of the place, while the king was at the warres, hearing of the overthrow, and of the captivity of the king, and now fearing the surprizall of the towne, they chose rather, to stand to such conditions of peace, as the enemy should propose to them, than by their further obstinacies to procure an inevitable destruction, to themselves, and to their whole countrey. Upon these considerations, the flagge of truce was put forth, which was answered with the like from the enemy, whereupon, it came to a treaty, and conditions were made, that the *Barbarians* should make such satisfaction, both for the wrong done to the merchants, and for the charges the *Spaniard* had beene at in these present warres, and for the redemption of their king, as the king of *Spaine* should impose: and to that end, their Ambassadors should forthwith goe with them to *Spaine*, and for security of this, they should entertaine into the city, till the conditions were performed, such a company

company of souldiers, as the Lord admiral should thinke sufficient, for the guard of the place; this if they would not agree to, they should stand to the hazard of the fight, necessity so urged them, that of force these conditions were excepted: only they desired that they might bee no more troubled with their king, who was so fell a tyrant, that they were not able longer to endure him, and therefore, they requested the Duke, that since it was his fortune to have him in his hands, hee would bee pleased to use such meanes with the king, as that the tyrant might no more trouble them, and if hee would take such an order, they would wholly submit themselves to his government, rather choosing to bee commanded by a stranger, than such a monster.

Every thing being ordred, in a most convenient maner, and a garrison of souldiers put into the towne; the Duke of *Midnia*, with the two noble youthes, and the prisoner king of *Tunis*, and the Ambassadors of the towne returned homeward, where they were received with the loud clamours and shoutes of joy, of the overgladdened people,

people, every where they came, shewes and triumphes were presented them, and all of them, some in one sort, and some in another, setting forth the honourable actions of the noble *Sicilians*: in this pompous manner, they came at last to the court at *Sivill*, where they were entertained by the king in most loving manner, especially the two brothers, whom with the armies of love hee imbraced, calling them his protectours and defenders, imputing those things to their honour and fame, that they of duty ought to have performed. Thus liv'd these two in honour and credit, every man highly esteeming them, as the onely mirrors of admirable valour, and singular wisdom in that age.

This honour done to the overthrowers made the *Barbarian* beyond measure mad, and his fortune so contrary to his expectation, made him to doubt of his oracle, yet did he not absolutely despair of it, till the Ambassadors being dismissed, and every thing being agreed upon, and hee seeing no hope of escape, hee began then utterly to taxe the Gods of falshood, invidiously blaspheming those powers for so deluding

deluding him. After some time (at the request of the brothers) hee was brought to the kings presence (where to vindicate the Gods of such injury as hee had offered them) they told him plainly that they were *Sicilians*, relating to the king, and the rest of those that were present, their country, kindred, and family, and how they were stolne from *Sicily* by the Pyrats, and afterwards with them cast away upon the coast of *Spaine*, where they were found by fisherman of *Tarragona*, this newes as on the one side, it amazed the king, with such an accident, so on the other side, it much more madded the *Barbarian*, cursing himselfe for neglect, for being overreach't in such manner, and therefore, what with shame of his overthrow, and with new torment of conscience, for his old wickednesse, hee desperately abstained from food, and so dyed by famine, nor was his death lamented of any, but rather it much joyed the heart of the *Tunisians*, to heare that hee was sure enough for ever troubling them any more.

In the meane time, the two famous youthes, burning in desire to see their native

tive

But

But fortune, as it seem'd willing to shew what authority shee had in lovers proceedings, once more laid a stumbling block to crosse their happinesse; *Hormisda* and *Polypus*, (those two brothers in mischeife) who (as you heard before) left the Cattle to the conquering lovers, never left their flight, till they came to *Palermo*, a city not farre off, where there dwelt an aunt of theirs, named *Andriana*, a woman so well skill'd in ill, that shee was the tutresse to her forward nephewes: aged shee was about fiftie, but of crabbed conditions, and testy of nature, that the pettish favour of her angry wrinkled face, shewed her to bee farre older than indeed shee was. Her continuall practise was to entise youth to any evill, and when shee failed of her intents, shee would sit feeding herselfe with despite and anguish, other mens adversity was as a cordiall to her, but their prosperity poyson'd her: shee practis'd physicke, but to what purpose I know not, for there were few that knew her, that would venture under her hands for a cure; so that generally shee was despised and contemned, as a woman of the most



most wretched cōditions of the whole city.

To this gracious mistresse, did these two (striplings in her art) come for shelter, who though shee were crabbed to others, yet did shee love them intirely, mov'd thereto perhaps by the congruitie of their conditions: and therefore welcoming them, shee inquired of their estate, and what chance had driven them to *Palermo*? but when shee knew the cause, her heart was so full of revengefull anger, that shee could not speake in a good while, her teeth chattered in her head, and her eyes stared, as if they would have leapt out, to seeke those over-happy couples: at last anger gave place to words, and therefore taking her kinsmen by the hands, and seating them by her, shee thus spake unto them.

Since the death of your good uncle (my deare nephewes) I have not entertained news that was so displeasing to me, to see that fortune should so much foole you, as to bring you to the goale of happinesse, and then to leave you, and turne to your enemies. Truist mee nephewes, I could bee angry with you, for loving, for what is love? that hee should have power over

I

you,

you, that are men of a more austere condition, then those that are *Cupids* Votarists; but more angry I am, in that being so deeply in love, as you were, you would suffer your selves to bee so gull'd by a couple of wenches: had you them not in your owne power, to doe with them what you pleased? and yet must you needes stand to their courtesie, that would not yeeld to your prswasion, now by the crisped lockes of sterne *Hecate*, you were too blame, too childish; you should rather have shewed your selves like men, and as you surpris'd them well and cunningly, so you should have proceeded accordingly, and not used such intreaties to such peevish sluts: who now that they are free, will laugh at your folly, and boast themselves in your indiscretion, vaunting of their wits in beguiling two men so well skill'd in *Venus* art, as *Hormisda* and *Polipus*. It was not well nephews, it was not well, and I could chide you for it, but that I see you penitent and ashamed of your owne weaknesse, but shall these roysters boast themselves thus? shall they say *Hormisda* and *Polypus* are overcome; and *Andriana* cannot helpe them?

no,

no, rather will I move hell, and call all those powers to my aide, rather will I send the furies with their whips of Steele to scourge them, till they fall to despaire, and hang themselves, were not that a sweet revenge, nephewes? trust mee, were I to choose; no other way would I revenge my selfe, but by their deathes: but I see unwonted pittie appeare in your eyes, and you that were wont to delight in nothing so much as blood, now me thinkes started at the name of death. O then I see, love hath such mastery over you, that nothing but the fruition of those sweetes of love can satisfie you, and is it so indeed? well then, though I hate this foolish compassionate love in you, whom in my minde, it fitted rather to laugh at their downefall, than to desire their company, yet since I hope, that after you have had your wils on them, your selves will be their fatal executioners, I am contented for this once, to mollifie my hardned nature, and to beate my brains for a way to work your desires.

These kind wordes so fired their hearts, that they thanked their aunt, promising if shee would performe this, that afterward

they would bee wholly at her comman-
dement, whereupon, shee thus began
againe.

It is a hard matter nephewes, to com-
passe your desires, it being a thing altoge-
ther impossible, for man or devill to change
the will of any, and therefore you must not
expect that they can bee wrought to love
you, but you must determine, that when
you have them in your power againe,
(which is all I can performe for you) you
must banish all lenity from you, and be no-
thing mov'd with their teares or intreat-
ties; now to worke this, a new way must
bee invented, because I thinke they will
not bee so foolish hereafter, to trust them-
selves so without company, and to attempt
to take them perforce, were a matter of
much difficulty, if not impossibility. I
have therefore invented a meanes, whereby
in spite of all the world you shall enjoy
Callanthia and *Florella*; get mee presently
without delay, two paire of gloves, rich
and costly, such as you thinke may fit their
hands, these will I so charme with ma-
gicke spells, and forcible incantations, that
whosoever drawes them on, shall suddaine-
ly

ly fall into so deepe a sleepe, that all signe of life shall bee extinguished in them, till they are pull'd off againe. These enchanted gloves, shall one of you in some disguise, present to the two wenches, as from their sweet-hearts (but see you choose your time wisely, that you bee not intrapped in your owne subtilty) which they shall no sooner have pull'd on, but drowtie sleep will take possession on their eyes, and then I hope I shall not need to instruct you how you should use them: this (if you play your parts as well as I will mine) cannot choose but bee a plot thriving and fortunate.

This plot was so pleasing to the nephewes, that thanking their aunt exceedingly for her good counsell, they presently fetch't the gloves, with which the devill and shee wrought so thoroughly, that somnivolent power, was transfused into them; which was no sooner done, but *Hormisdas* having by diligent inquiry, found a time when the two lovers were at their owne castle, in the disguise of a serving-man, went to present their giftes to the beauteous sisters. Fortune so favoured him, that

he found them walking together, all alone, in a little grove, which as it was out of sight of their fathers house, yet was it within hearing, and therefore they feared no treachery there, the false *Hormisda*, finding them so conveniently, applauding highly his good fortune, went boldly to them, and with an humble reverence, presented them with the gloves, with these speeches.

My noble masters *Cleanthes* and *Polydore*, humbly kisse the hands of their beauteous mistresses, and by mee their servant, present your Ladyships with these gloves, though farre too meane to be worne upon such delicate handes, earnestly requesting you, to pardon their whole dayes absence, from your wish't presence: protesting it hath beene, as a tedious winter of perpetuall frost, to bee kept so long from the comfortable sunne of your faire beauties, such is the urgency of their present businesse, that they must of necessity endure this torment, till to morrow morning, and then they will delay no longer, to tender you their service, in the meane time, not to bee thought altogether unmindefull

mindefull of you, they have sent me their unskillfull messenger, to make their excuse : but least my unlikely presence, might worke no beleife in your easie nature, they have intrusted mee with the delivery of these gloves, as an instance that I came from them, kissing them before they parted with them, and desiring you to put them on, that those gloves that kist their lips, might bee so happy as to kisse your hands.

The gentlewomen, could not choose but smile to see, with what a shamefac't bashfulnesse, the fellow delivered his message, as seeming to bee an unskillfull rhetorician in the art of love; and therefore taking the gloves of him, they bade him returne their thanks to their masters, and tell them, that had they not sent a good oratour to make their way, they should surely have beene well chidden for their negligence, but now they would pardon them, if they would keep their words, and not faile to see them on the morrow, and therewith they drew on the gloves, which were so fit for them, that they much commended their skill in choosing them, the

transformed servingman, having done his message, humbly taking his leave, told them hee would carry their answers to his masters.

Hee had not gone farre, but looking behinde him, hee might perceive them to bee laid downe on the grasse, the vertue of the charme having so wrought on them, that they were not able to goe any further, and therefore yeelding to necessitie, they laid them downe: which hee well seeing, call'd forth his aunt & brother, (who stood not farre off in a thicket) requiring their aide to beare them away, but the wretched *Audriana*, excellently well skill'd in mischeife, feeling their breath and pulse, and perceiving all to bee quiet as shee wished, stayed them with this gracious counsell.

Rash beginnings (nephewes) make as untoward an ending, and a hasty bitch you know brings but blinde puppies: wise men should consider of their actions, before they undertake them, and see what successe or feare of danger they carry with them, and not runne headlong on without discretion, as if fortune must needs favour you,

You, howsoever you order your proceedings. I speake this (nephewes) as taxing your overhasty forwardnesse, in a matter of so great moment; for what could you get by thus conveying them away, but an assured destruction? for you would bee the first that would bee suspected for stealing them, as having done it before: therefore my counsell is, that you stay till they are buried, and then you may at pleasure take them out of the tombe, and use them without suspicion; besides, how would my heart leape within mee, if wee could by some quaint meanes, accuse their sweethearts of their death, and bring them to death for it. O it would make mee young againe, which mee thinkes were easie to bee brought o passe, would you follow my counsell, and behave your selves resolutely & like men! Not far off the two lovers are coming hitherwards, I descried them now against they come hither, goe you and raise the officers and the people to apprehend them, as guilty of poysoning them, which you must constantly avouch; as for my selfe I will not bee seene in it, that it may carry the more shew of truth, and



and when they come to see their sweethearts, they shall not onely finde them (as they will suppose) dead, but also they shall bee apprehended, arraigned, condemned, and executed for their deathes, whilest you two, void of all manner of feare, may freely enjoy the sweet imbraces of your loves, and I may sat my selfe with joy for the happy overthrow of two such couples.

This counsell was so well lik'd, that it was presently put in practise, for the two brothers perceiving the gentlemen to bee neere at hand, ranne in all haste to the towne, with a loud outcry, strongly accusing *Cleanthes* and *Polydore*, for the poysoning of *Callanthia* and *Florella*, which they constantly avouched themselves to have seene, as they went that way by chance; this strange accident amazed all men, especially such as knew the persons that were so taxed, yet their constant accusation of them, upon their owne knowledge, moved a beleife in them, yet mixt with admiration for so rare a chance: officers therefore and a guard being appointed, then they went directly to the place where

where they found the two gentlemen, and old *Clidamas* (whom their outcry had called forth) wofully lamenting the losse of two such excellent creatures, blaming the crueltie of death and fortune, for crossing so happy a marriage, as would have beene in the conjunction of so excellent paires: seldome is it seene, that greife goes alone, but commonly one falls upon the neck of another, and so it was here, for the guard upon the sight of the Gentlemen, presently apprehended them on suspition of murder, for poisoning the two gentlewomen: which *Hormisda* and *Polipus* (being disguised) constantly maintained to bee true, as having themselves seene the deede done.

This was strange newes to the distracted lovers, and as strange it was to old *Clidamas*, for though hee was strongly perswaded of the integritie, and vertue of his sonnes, and knew by experience, that they lov'd his daughters exceedingly, yet the unmov'd gesture of the accusers, his ignorance of them, as not knowing them, made him wonder, yet could hee not bee perswaded; but that they were false, and there-
fore

fore he told the officers, that they were mistaken, and tooke wrong persons, that the accusers eyes had deceived them, taking one for another, that the gentlemen and his daughters were contracted together, and within three or foure dayes should have beene married, had not this untimely chance hapned, and therefore it was not to bee credited, that they should so sudainely bee changed from dying for their loves, if it should have beene denied them, to flat poysoning them, which could not be done but for a mortall hate: but all would not doe, for the accusers were instant and urge their assertion; and the officers beleevd, and therefore without any more reply, they carried them away to *Palermo* to prison, yet before they went, they desired *Clidamas* not to beleeeve any such report, protesting that they were, as cleare of the fact, as they were grieved for the losse of their espoused wives: requesting moreover, that he would for their sakes, whom ever he had affected, keepe the bodies unburied, till the truth of the whole matter, should bee made manifest, this he promised to performe, so with teares on either side,

side, they departed, they to prison, and hee home, with his supposed dead daughters to his owne house.

The day of triall was within two dayes after, which being come, and the Iudges seated according to the custome, the prisoners were placed at the barre, where pleading not guilty, and putting themselves to the triall of the law, the accusers were commanded to stand forth and speake, whereupon, *Hormisd* stood forth, and spake thus.

It may seeme a strange matter (reverent Iudges) for us, that are meere strangers in this place, to accuse them of such eminent note as these two are reported to bee, and of a crime so monstrous and hainous, but our consciences told us, that if wee kept such a deed of darkenesse privy to our selves, wee should make our selves also guilty of the fact, and therefore wee thought it better to accuse them, then to carry about with our selves the tedious gripings of a guilty conscience; for alas, what else would it have benefited us, to have them perish? they being men so farre from doing us any injury, that I know not whether wee have

seene

seene them heretofore or no, and therefore farre bee it from you, to imagine that wee should accuse them out of spleene or anger, whom now first of all wee know: and I would to God it had not beene our hap so to have knowne them, then should we perchance have beene safer, and avoided the envy of the over-affectionate multitude, for accusing them great in their favour: for you are not ignorant my Lordes, what a burthen we have brought upon our selves, wee incurre the malice of the people, what more violent? we adventure rude and simple, against men of excellent eloquence and attracting rhetorick, and what more hopelesse? we undergoe the sharp censure of the law, if wee should bee overthrowne, and what more dangerous? yet such is our settled confidence, in the justice of our owne cause, & the trust we have in your uprightnesse, that wee dare adventure all these, and as many more, in the discharging our soules of so heavy a weight, as the concealing of so impious a murder

May it please your Lordships, therefore to understand, that upon the day of this bloody deed, my friend here and my selfe,
travailing



travailing towards *Palermo*, and passing through a little grove, suddainely heard a cry, and the neerer we approached to it, the more perfectly we perceived it to be a womans voice, and therefore making halt, wee might sometimes by fits, hear these or some like speeches, as gentle loves have pittie on us, bee not so unmercifull, to stain your faire hands, in our innocent bloods, these words made us mend our pace, to see if wee could (as manhood willed us) save the lives of the women, from such bloody butchers; wee were no sooner come into sight, but wee might behold, the two gentlewomen (that are now dead) kneeling at the feet of these two, (men I cannot call them) who with their daggers in one hand, and a cup of poison in the other, stood over them with menacing looks and threatning gesture, offering them deadly poison, or they should feele the sharpnesse of their merciles daggers, which we seeing, presently cried out to them to hold their hands, and desist from so unmercifull a deed, withall with our swords drawne offering to inforce them, if they would not give over, but they (as we then proved, and since

since have heard) being men approved in warre and fights, presently grew too hard for us, & would have charmed our tongues for ever babling, if our legs had beene no better than our hands: but the Gods bee thanked wee outranne them, and so saved our selves, they had no sooner chased us, but they returned againe to their former businesse; wee being now safe from their swordes, willing to save the Gentlewomen, and yet not daring to come into their sight any more, resolved that my friend should runne to the towne to fetch helpe, whil' it I getting as nere as I could, observed their actions: so wee parted, and I closely creeping along a banke, came within hearing of them, when I might heare one of the Gentlewomen, thus speake.

Alas deare love! what chance hath so suddainely converted thy earnest love, to so deadly hate? what hath poore *Callanthis* done, to incite *Cleantes* to this tyranny? alas my love, tell mee my fault, that before I dye (if I must needes dye) I may repent me of it if I can, if not, I may the more willingly receive my death, as having done a fault which *Cleantes* cannot forgive.

give, To which, hee made this answer,
 Plague of my heart (said hee) thy life is the
 onely fault that I finde in thee, and of that
 I would faine purge thee, either by this
 precious potion, or letting thee blood with
 this daggers point, and why is my life be-
 come a fault (said shee?) because whilst I
 live (said hee) I shall never bee happy, for
 mine eyes have beheld so tempting a beau-
 ty, that I am dead till thy death release mee
 of that fond contract, that formerly I made
 with thee. Nay then tis time that I were
 dead, (said she) that am a hinderer of *Cle-
 anthes* happinesse, and is this your doome
 too (said the other gentlewoman to her
 false friend) it is (said hee) and therefore
 dispatch, and either drinke this poyson, or
 feele the sharpnesse of my daggers point,
 and therewith they thrust the cups to their
 mouthes, holding their daggers at their
 breasts, but the poore gentlewomen not
 knowing which to choose, and inforced to
 choose one; dranke the poyson, and so
 died: oft did my heart bid mee to goe and
 rescue, yet I durst not adventure mine own
 life to save an others. No sooner were
 the two gentlewomen cold and dead, but

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my friend returned with officers from the towne, but too late, for they were past all helpe, the two murderers no sooner perceived them coming, but thinking no body had seene the deed done; they fell upon the dead bodies, lamenting their deaths with many a fained sigh, and many a teare forcibly wrung from their relentlesse eyes. Thus my Lords you have heard the truth of all, which how strange soever it seemes, yet if you consider the force of prevailing lust, what power it hath over mans affection, it will not seeme a thing impossible, for two such young men to bee overcome with lust, and being overcome, to be drawn by it to worke such outrage. Consider my Lords, that they which could do such a villany, could dissemble it, & they that could so well dissemble, can as stiffely deny the fact, it being now their onely safety; for I do not thinke they are so fond to hope for mercy, after the doing of an act so foul, and consider that when wee would have saved them, and could not, wee doe now our best indeavours to bring the actours to due punishment, that such a vile and inhumane deed, may not want a deserved recompence.

recompence.

This hee spake with so settled and un-
mov'd a countenance, that he possessed the
hearts of the whole bench, with a full belief
of what he spake: yet that the custome of
the law might proceed according to the
custome, the prisoners were commanded
to speake for themselves, what they could,
whereupon *Cleantes* thus spake.

Were thy sword as valiant as thy tongue,
I would desire these Lords that the justice
of the cause might onely bee decided by
our swords, then would I make thy false
tongue unsay, what it hath now spoken, or
send thy blacke soule to the lowest hell
to teach those lying spirits a new way to
falshood: but since thou hast cunningly
confest thy selfe too weake, I scorne to of-
fer thee a combat, rather will I fight with
thee at thine owne weapon; and though
my tongue bee not so voluble as thine, yet
shall thee pure sincerity of my hearty in-
nocence, out ballance the faire colours of
thy slanderous rhetoricke. What ere
thou art, thou art as farre from my know-
ledge, as thy spotted soule is from good-
nesse, onely I know thee to bee false and

wretched, hired it may bee for some bribe, to accuse innocent men, or if thou dost it of thy selfe, thou art so farre below mee, that I cannot imagine an occasion why thou shouldest doe it, nor know I how to answer thee as thou deservest. To answer to his accusation with an absolute negation, (though it were sufficient in respect of the cleareness of our consciences) yet in respect of your satisfaction (worthie Lordes) it might seeme lame, as wanting due proofes to make it goe upright. To answer therefore, to this false accusation, I absolutely deny it to be false, for consider reverent Iudges, the persons accusing, men of no note, insomuch that I think there is no man in this whole assembly, that hath any knowledge of them, so that for ought I or any man else know, they may bee men of so wicked conversation, that they are not to bee beleev'd, but of that I am not now to dispute, next consider my Lordes the persons accused, men (that if it may bee lawfull for us to speake in our owne praise) have also been reputed vertuous and honest, never before tainted with the least crime, but esteemed among the

the best and most vertuous people of this
country, and among them not as the un-
derlings of all, but as men of cheife note
and reckoning, but that is not now to
availe us, for wee are accused, and these are
our accusers, but of what doe they accuse
us? of the deaths of *Callanthia* and *Flo-
rella*, good Gods! how miserable are wee
two of a suddaine become, not onely to be
deprived of the lives of our lives, our dea-
rest spouses, but to bee also accused as men
so voide of grace and pittie, nay of valour
and manly constancy, as not onely on a
suddaine to hate, but also so cruelly to
murder those our so deare spouses, good
Gods what should I say if this be beleevd!
who shall bee free from slanderous accusa-
tions? whom will not desperate villains
for gaine or malice dare to accuse? if it
bee beleevd that *Cleanthes* and *Polydore*
were the deers of *Callanthia* and *Florella*,
who will not dare to love, least his love
should miscarry, and hee bee condemned
for the fault, for were they not our dearest
treasures? could wee live one day from
their sight? were they not our selves?
and how say you then? that *Callanthia*

K 3

kneeled

kneeled at *Cleanthes* his feete, begging for
 mercy and could not obtaine it : as if
Cleanthes should have sought for pittie
 from himselte, and been denied it, how say
 you that *Cleanthes* preferred the beauty of
 another before *Callanthia's*, as if *Cleanthes*
 should love any ones face more then his
 owne, how will you perswade that *Clean-*
thes should poyson *Callanthia*, as if *Clean-*
thes should bee drawn to poison himselte,
 and how will you make any one believe,
 that *Polydore* was of that minde too, as if
Polydore should bee as madde as *Cleanthes*
 to poyson himselte, if you can believe this?
 what will you not believe? or if you will
 not believe this to bee false? I can onely
 foresee what will follow, but know not
 how to avoide: for wee can say no more
 in our defence then this, that none loved a-
 ny better then wee did them, and therefore
 none so unlikely as wee to murder
 them.

This speech though it were in it self true,
 and bred a like working in the hearts
 of many, yet weighed with the others ve-
 hement asseverations, and reproofes, it see-
 med of small force to them that were of
 indifferent

indifferent affection to either, which the Iudges pondring and overwaighing of the plaintiffes truth, hee proceeded to sentence in this manner.

It is a hard matter in so difficult a cause, to give a right sentence, it is therefore the duty of the accusers, to bring in a true evidence, else it will redound to their owne shame and ignominy: consider therefore, you that are the plaintiffes, that if you falsly accuse these gentlemen, their blouds will bee required at your hands, and you shall dearely pay for it, you also that are heere accused, if you bee guilty of the crime? I would advise you openly to confesse it, and disburthen your soules of so cumbersome a trouble, as I know the smothering of such a sinne will bee, but if you know your selves innocent? you shall bee sure of an unspeakeable joy at your deathes, and that is all the comfort I can give: for wee have not eyes that can pierce into the bottomes of mens hearts, wee are to judge by the outward appearance, and according to the evidence that is brought against you, now therefore considering, your accusers, doe heere accuse you of this murder,

not by meere probability, by plaine demonstration, as having themselves seene the deed done, which you doe not cleare your selfe off, but onely by certaine likelihoods, as how unlikely it is for men of your ranke and quality, to doe such mischeifes to persons whom you so dearly affected, indeed it is something unlikely, but not a matter of impossibility, and therefore hearing what either side hath or can say, I thinke it the safest way to judge according to the great appearance of truth.

Since therefore, you two *Cleanthes* and *Polydore*, have beene here accused, arraigned, and convicted, of the murder of *Calanthia* and *Florella*, I then pronounce your sentence, that you be had from hence, to the great market place, and there a scaffold being erected, you shall upon it lose your heades, and the Gods shew mercy on your soules.

The sentence was forthwith put in execution, for a scaffold being erected in the market place, the two condemned gentlemen (with a sufficient guard) were brought unto it, where being mounted up, they desired.

fired the officer that was appointed to see the execution done, that hee would grant them so much respite, till they might send to the house of old *Clidamas*, to bring thither the bodies of his dead daughters, that they might take their last farewell of them: to this the officer willingly consented, and one was sent to fetch them.

Old *Clidamas*, who all this time had kept his house, as in suspence what should become of his two friendes, now that hee heard of their condemnation, and the message they had sent unto him, rising up and saying nothing but, O justice, how are thy blinde eyes abused! hee tooke the dead bodies, and laid them both upon one beere, apparrelled still as they were at first, and with them went to the city, and coming to the scaffold, and taking his friendes about the neckes, it was a good while ere teares would let him speake, at last speech made an eruption to this purpose.

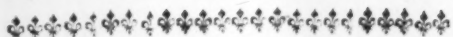
How is it, O yee Gods! that yee have no way to defend the innocent? must it needes bee that a guiltlesse life must be lost for a deed that some other blondy villaine hath

hath committed? if it be so then? at least grant me this boone, that the truth of this mystery, may at one time or other be more evidently knowne to all the world, that though they lose their lives, yet their fames may live in everlasting memory: for thinke my deare *Cleanthes* and *Polydore* that I beleeeve this accusation? no, no, my heart is as free from any such suspicion, as your hands and hearts I know were farre from doing a deede so misbecoming you; and may your soules take as much comfort after death, as mine is farre from thinking any harme in you. These words were spoken by him so affectionately, that it mov'd all his hearers to pittie and compassion, but the gentlemen with undaunted hearts, testifying that his thoughts did not deceive him, thanked him for his good opinion of them, nothing doubting but time would make it more cleare to bee a truth infallible. And therewith they went to take their last leaves of their dead mistresses, and therefore approaching neere the beere, & discovering their faces (which death could not rob of those innate perfections, that liberall nature had bestowed



On them in their births, *Cleanthes* (while *Polydore* did the like to *Florella*) tooke his farewell of his senselesse *Callanthia* in these lamentations.

Could that dead tongue of thine, (O lovely corpes of my once deare *Callanthia*) relate the story of thine owne destruction I know it would pronounce mee as guiltlesse of thy death, as thou in death art beautifull, but since it hath so pleased the Gods, that those pleasing oracles are silenced, by whose mischievous hands I know not, let thy soule freely pardon thy *Cleanthes*, for leaving thee alone when this wretched deede was done, which else my presence might have prevented, and therefore have the Gods laid this just plague upon mee, and I acknowledge my selfe, worthily to indure this shame for such a negligence. Yet I beseech thee by those chaste kisses that oft have past betweene us, by those firme troth-plights, which have unfeignedly bene registred in the bookes of our true hearts, pardon mee this fault, that when our two soules shall meeete in the happy shade of faire *Elysium*, mine may not be chidden away from thine, but wee may



may with eternity of joy, renew those loves never to have ending there, which here are abnoxious to so many casualties, that wee may fit together hand in hand, and with a fulnesse of joy, recount the laborinth of our haplesse love. In the meane time, O give mee leave to dew thy cold hands, with these warme drops of love, the onely tribute of my dying constancy, and therewith he pull'd of her gloves, and putting her hands to his eies moistned the with his true teares, and thus proceeded: now may you close your selves in peace my happy eyes, having imbalm'd those precious hands of hers, that inrich't every thing that touch't her: and you pale lips of my *Callanthia*, O give me leave to kisse you, and though I expect not the like comfort from you, that I was wont to have, when (like a bold theefe) I have stolen that odoriferous breath, silently creeping through your ruby doores, whilst mine eyes were gazing in hers, to see if they perceived me, yet let mee take of you the last kisse that I am likely ever to take from you; and therewith laying his lippes to hers, hee might sensibly perceive the warme breath
come

come stealing forth, whereat not a little amazed, hee felt againe, and still hee felt it more fresh and warme, therefore calling suddainely to old *Clidamas*, hee bade try if he could feele nothing.

By this time the charme being remov'd, the vitall spirits became to get the mastery over drowsie sleepe, and she began to open the faire windowes of her eyes: when looking round about her, not knowing where she was, or how she came thither, seeing her father by her almost distracted with amazement, and her lover standing bound before her, and herselfe lying dead, so the wonder had almost made her to dye in earnest, that was before but dead in shew.

You may better imagine (gentle reader) then I can any way expresse the overflow of joy, that was then on all sides, but still the wonder remained, when the gentlewomen being asked, how shee came into that case? could answer nothing, but that on such a day, a servant of *Cleanthes* and *Polydore* brought to either of them a paire of gloves, which they had no sooner put on, but they fell asleepe, but what hapned since

since, they knew not, this was as strange as the rest to the two gentlemen, neither could they imagine who it should be, that should deliver such a present in their names, yet by her wordes gathering that the sleeping power lay in the gloves, they went and pull'd off the gloves from the hands of *Florella*, which was no sooner done, but shee also awaked, to the no little comfort of the father and the lovers, and the wonderfull amazement of all the beholders.

This suddaine accident hapning so contrary to their expectation, wrought as strange an effect in *Hormisda* and *Polisus*, for seeing the exceeding affection, and extremity of joy these lovers welcomed one another with, as if they had been raised indeed from death to life, they presently turned from their malicious purposes, not only resolutely determining never to use any more waies to hinder their happinesse, but also angry with themselves for having done such a deed, as denied them any part in this generallity of joy, and therefore that they might testifie their penitence, by an open cnoession of so open a crime, they came

came before them vpon the scaffold, and discovered themselves, and earnestly intreated their pardons, truly discovering the whole course of their proceedings, desiring them, that as they themselves had tasted the effects of love, they would so consider the like in them, and judge of them with what lenity and charitie they could, this newes coming to the governours eare, who presently coming to the place, and hearing the story related againe, set the two gentlemen at liberty, and committed *Hormisda* and *Polipus*, and the mischeivous *Andriana* to close prison till it should bee knowne what should further bee done with them.

These things being finished, *Clidamas* with his lovely company returned home, and as soone as the appointed day came, the two couples consummated their joyes in a happy marriage, all the day was spent in variety of delight and pleasure, and the most part also of the night, which being ended, every one prepared to bed-ward, when presently they were stayed by a gallant sound of cornets, but we must returne a while to our *Sicilians* on the sea.

So

So long they sailed, till they arrived at *Sicily*, not long before this marriage, they went presently to the governour, and shewing their letters, they were according as their dignitie required, entertained with him, they stayed till they had learned as much as they desired, wherefore hearing their father lived, and their sisters were shortly to be married to such worthy men, they determined to reveale themselves at the wedding in some gratefull manner, for which purpose they thought a masque to be the fittest meanes, and therefore discovering to the governour what they were, and their whole determination, they requested him to furnish them with gentlemen fit for such a businesse, which hee both for their owne sakes, whome by this little acquaintance hee began to affect, as also for the expresse commandement of the king to use them nobly, as also for his own liking of the plot performed accordingly.

In the meane time, divers firme reports had beene brought to the governour, by the keepers of the prison, that *Hormisda* and *Polipus* were wonderfull penitent for their

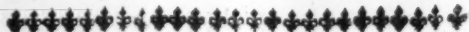
the Sicilian Tale.

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their former offences, never ceasing night and day to punish themselves, with abstinence and teares, so that it was wonderfull to see those men, that were but a little before, so obdurate in wickednesse, to be now so penitent for their obduratenesse. These newes made the Governor much compassionate them, and considering that their fact, howsoever heinous, could not in law finde with death, and willing to nourish vertue in so good beginnings, and if it might bee, to baget a friendship betwene them and the other, hee thought it would not be amisse, to prefer them to be actours in the masque, as knowing them to be men not unskilfull in such qualities, and therefore first revealing his intents to the brothers, who readily consented to it, he sent for them, and told them of his determination, which they with a multitude of thanks embraced, as a most gracious favour.

Every thing being prepared for the purpose, they came into the bride-house, with a noise of cornets in this maner. First entered, bearing torches four water-nymphs in long garments of blue silk, fringed with silver, & wrought about the borders with green weeds growing in the water, after the



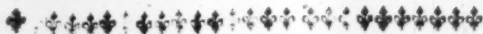
followed *Triton*, in a garment of silver-plate, wrought like unto fishes scales, his bases were of blue taffata powdered with scolap-shells, on his head he wore a cap made after the fashion of a scolap-shell, the rest whereof was a dolphin, bearing the great musition *Arion* on his back, to shew that fish hath delight in musick, in his hand he carried a trumpet, made of a rams-horn, after him came a set of cornets, appparelled in scales, & blue silke bases, after them more torch-bearers like the former, after them two pages, attired in watchet sattin, curiously embroïdred with gold and pearles, upon their legs, buskins of white spanish leather, spotted with gold, and tied together with white riband, between them they bore a little table, wherein was curiously painted the whole story of the two gentlemen, from their shipwrack, to their returne to *Spain* from *Tunni*, that which went before as their stealing by Pirats they left out, least the thing might be too soone knowne, and the fulnesse of joy might bee anticipated, after them followed *Neptune* in a garment of sea-green, curiously set with rubies and diamonds, so that they seemed like the shining of the stars, when one beholds them in the water, the skirts of his garment

garment was embroidered with white, prettily resembling the foame which the sea makes, whē it meets with the resisting shore, upon his head hee wore a silver crescent, to shew his obedience to that planet, on his shoulder, he bare his tridēt of silver, set with saphires and jaspīres, and others gems of the like value, on either side of him came two gentlemen, alike attired in crimson velvet cunningly embroidered with blue silke, in the fashion of a net, and here and there intermixed with little fishes, in which the workman had shewed such skill, that as the garment moved, the fishes seemed to dance and leap in the net, shewing the wearers to be gallant fishermen, and posing the beholders, to judge whether the riches of the robe, or the excellency of the worke were to be preferred, after them followed two sea-gods, in garments of skie-coloured sattin, embroidered with silver and pearl, last of all followed foure torch-bearers like the former, in this maner they came into the roome, where the Pages delivering up their tablet to the brides The masquers prepared themselves for the first measure, which was performed in most exquisite maner to the sound of cornets, that being done certaine loose dances passed be-

Before they glad their father with their sight.
 The question is, whether in doing so,
 They have deserved a reproofe or no?

All this while *Clidamas* at musing on the
 maner of this story, entertaining thoughts of
 his lost sons, hee knew it was not impossible
 for the Gods to preserve them, & the words
 of the speech lively pointed out their histo-
 ry, only their country danted him, but that
 he thought might be a trick of poetry to say
 one thing and meane another, yet would he
 not give too much to his fancy, least proving
 contrary, it might prove to his greater grief,
 and perceiving *Triton* to have finished with
 that request, he thus returned his answer,

To answer you in your owne Poetical
 straine, (trust me gentle *Triton*) is more then
 my tired braine can performe, such fancies
 rather fits young heads, then such frostbitten
 trees as I am, but yet not to send you away
 without your answer, thus in plain dunsta-
 ble prose I give my verdit, that if the gentle-
 mē's father be here in presence (as you say he
 is) they do not only deserve no reproof, but
 also commendations, in choosung a time to
 reveale themselves in, which will make the
 fulnesse of joy the more, by how much the
 company of participators will be greater.



This judgment given, they all forthwith unmask't themselves, and *Hormisdas* (who had with his vizar put off *Neptune*) taking the two gentlemen in his hands, came with them before old *Clidamas*, and kneeling before him, spake in his owne person thus.

I cannot blame you to wonder to see us, that were but a little before your deadly enemies, so rudely to presse into your presence, but we trust that as our penitent teares have made our peace in heaven with those powers above, so this gift which wee here present to you, will beget a friendly league of amity betweene us, that were once such mortall foes. Know then that *Italy* is turn'd to *Sicily*, and these two *Italian* gentlemen, are become to be *Marcuccio* and *Roderigo*, the two lost sons of *Sicilian Clidamas*, stolen in their nonage by Pyrats, and since passing such fortunes, as they themselves can better then I relate unto you, and therefore if you meane to stand to your owne judgment, it is your part to welcome, as their wisdom in so fit a time electing deserveth.

The good old man hearing this, and perceiving plainly, that his former thoughts proved true prophets of what ensued, he arose presently & running to them, he caught them

them about the neckes, crying out are yee come, more he would have spoke, but his overflowing joy, breaking into whole floods of teares, stopped his utterance, long it was ere hee revived out of this extasie, at last remembering himself, and giving them his blessing, hee turned to *Hormisda* and *Polipus*, greatly rejoycing at their good conversion, & thanking them for so gracious a present, & entertaining them most willingly into his friendship, whil't in the meane time the new come strangers, were welcomed of their sisters and their new brothers in law, and by course of the whole assembly, a firme league also of never dying amity was concluded betwixt the bridegromes and the two converted brothers,

All this joy was poison to the envious *Andriana*, who seeing the good successe of her enemies, and that her nephews also had forsaken her, and lothed her for her wickednesse, malice and envious spleen so wrought on her, that of meere spite she died, her death was not only not lamented of any, but also came as a happy newes to the whole company, especially to her nephewes, as not knowing the strength of their new resolution, if it should bee battred by the force of
he

her inveterate malice.

In this fashion they lived together some time, til their urgēt affairs called *Martuvio* and *Roderigo* to keep promise with the king, taking leave of father, brothers, and sisters, and returning into *Spaine*, where they lived in much renowne and glory. Whil't old *Clidasmas* lived among his sons and daughters, till he saw himselfe made a grandfather by them, and then paying his due debt to extorting nature, he left many weeping eies for his death, and was in much honour buried by his sons in law, who long after with their faire wives, lived in joy and felicity, making of an involved laborinth of growing love, a most happy and fortunate conclusion.

FINIS.

Imprimatur

Tho. Weekes.

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